

Price of a barrel of petroleum

US\$ 71.43

↓ 0.62

WORLD NEWS

TRADE MISSION



New Mexico's Gov. Bill Richardson smiles during a visit to the former home of late U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) in San Francisco de Paula, east of Havana, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. Richardson is spending the week in Cuba on a trade mission, promoting agricultural products and cultural exchange. See International News on Page

SPORTS NEWS

FEDEX BEGINS



Tiger Woods putts on the second green, with the Statue of Liberty seen in the background, during a practice round for The Barclays golf tournament on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, in Jersey City, N.J.

See Sports Today on Page 10

3rd Annual Event

World-class cachet for Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival

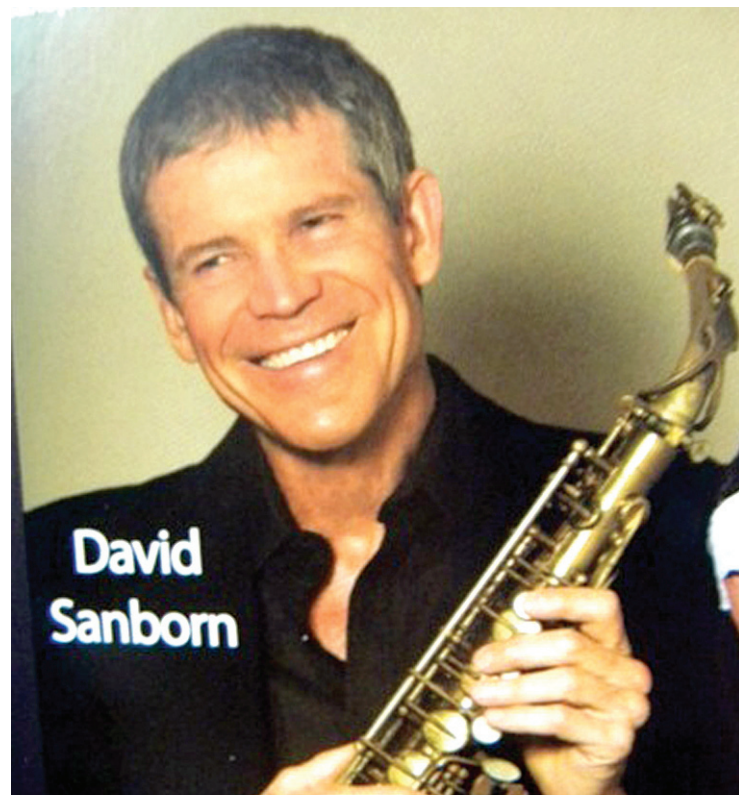


he has composed songs, written film scorings like those for the movies *Lethal Weapon* and *Scrooged* and he has even acted in movies. His musical taste has a wide range as well: he plays everything under the sun, from blues to pop, from jazz to funk. Izaline Callister is a Caribbean star: everyone is looking forward to hearing her sing her new songs from her latest CD 'Esperansa', hope. The Aruban premiere of this CD takes place on Friday, September 4. The performer from Curaçao is scoring high with the new road she has taken: she has broadened her repertoire and is now including Brazilian rhythms in her traditional music-inspired songs.

ORANJESTAD - With names like David Sanborn, Izaline Callister and Anacanoa in its line-up there is no doubt whatsoever that the 2009 edition of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival has world-class cachet. In three short years the Aruba festival has grown to become a top attraction, with performers from all over the world mailing and calling to be included in the two-event, which takes place on September 4 and 5 at the Plaza Cas di Cultura.

Alto saxophonist David Sanborn has a terrific musical reputation with a career to match. A long list of successful albums can attest to that. Sanborn is an all-rounder:

Expectations are sky high for the last act of the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival, the all-female, 12-woman band from Cuba called Anacanoa. The typical son music, formerly thought to be the prerogative for male musicians, is the group's specialty. Rousing songs about all aspects of life are what these ladies sing about. Anacanoa is an experience, one that should not be missed! Besides these three top acts, the Caribbean Sea Jazz Festival features guitarist Will Bernard, the Dutch blues band Cosy Cotton and Grana Louise, Gloria Vega and her band from Colombia and a good number of superb local bands, lots of



surprises and more. Main sponsors are Unoca, AAA, Copa Airlines, Romar, Freeway, Polar, AAA, ATA en AHATA. Prins Bernhardt

Cultuurfonds Netherlands Antilles and Aruba has financed free tickets for Aruba's youthful music lovers. A wonderful gesture!

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A Silver Anniversary at Marriott Resort

Roger surprises Debbie with Renewal of Vows



MARRIOTT- On August 25, 2009, Roger & Debbie Caba renew their 25th anniversary at Marriott Resort. Roger surprised his wife yesterday evening in the lobby of Marriott Resort after receiving a bouquet of roses. Roger got on bended knee and asked “Will you marry me again.” Debbie was speechless as they walked down the aisle hand in hand. The Officiate Andy Osbourne delivered the renewal of vows at sunset. Tears of joy were exchanged as well as rings as they said “I Do” once again.

The lovebirds were married 25 years ago on August 25, 1984. They have two sons Alan, 22, and Chris, 19, who are both in college. This



is their first visit to Aruba and a vacation neither will ever forget. Event coordinator, Helen Ruiz and Roger planned this anniversary to perfection. Roger planned it so well that he took Debbie on a shopping spree to make sure she bought a dress that will go well with the anniversary. He made sure that no loose ends were tangled. Roger is a romantic from the heart and the love they have is as strong as the day they said “I do” 25 years ago. God Bless from Aruba Today and Marriott Resort



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Valero Aruba Plant Shut Indefinitely, Workers Fired

By Barbara Powell and Jessica Resnick-Ault

Valero Energy Corp. said its Aruba refinery, the third-largest in the Caribbean, will be closed indefinitely and "nearly all" the remaining contract workers fired. The refinery stopped production July 16.

Valero, the largest U.S. refiner, notified workers today that the shutdown will go on because the economic situation has not improved, Bill Day, a company spokesman, said in an e-mail. Valero has sought to sell the plant.

The plant employs more than 1,000 contract workers and is one of the largest employers on the island of 106,000, according to Leo Maduro, policy adviser to the Aruba Chamber of Commerce and Industry. None of the refinery's 780 workers have been laid off, Day said.

"Most people say a shutdown of the refinery would mean a 13 percent loss of our GDP, and that's a lot," Maduro said. Valero workers represent approximately 3.9 percent of the island's private sector workforce of 45,000.

Valero stopped production at the refinery, its third-largest, after operating it at a loss in the second quarter. Valero said then it would re-evaluate economic conditions in two to three months. Bill Klesse, Valero chief executive officer, said yesterday that fuel markets have changed little since then.

"The changes you would have needed to see to reopen Aruba have not come yet," Klesse said. Heavy, sour grades of crude oil that the Aruba refinery can process would need to be more deeply discounted to make the refinery profitable, he said.

275,000 Barrels a Day

Valero said on July 28 it would have to consider cutting employees and reducing contract workers if the plant moved to a "cold shutdown" status.

Day said on Aug. 24 that Valero would maintain the plant in a "hot mothball status" with power available to the production units so it could be restarted "fairly quickly."

The distillates, intermediate refinery feedstocks and blending components it produces are sold in U.S., South American and European markets.

The Aruba refinery can process 275,000 barrels of crude oil a day. The largest refinery in the Caribbean is the Hovensa plant in the Virgin Islands, followed by Isla in the Netherlands Antilles owned by Petroleos de Venezuela SA.

Valero, based in San Antonio, owns 16 refineries from Quebec to Aruba.

AirTran Airways files for new service to Aruba

Aruba Airport Authority N.V. obtains Aruba's 13th Gateway in the United States



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has received official word from AirTran Airways that the necessary paperwork with the US Department of Transportation (DOT) for non-stop direct service on a weekly basis from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Orlando International Airport to Aruba has been filed. AirTran will be utilizing B737-700 aircraft on both routes configured with 137 seats and expects to start service in December 2009 from Atlanta and February 2010 from Orlando. AirTran Airways' mix of low fares and an affordable Business Class with excellent customer service and one of the world's youngest all-Boeing fleets has continued to strike a chord with the public. In addition, AirTran is currently one of the most profitable airlines in the United States. "AirTran Airways is thrilled bring our unique high quality, high value service to the beautiful island of Aruba" said John Kirby, Senior director of strategic planning for AirTran Airways.

"Our new service to Orlando, FL will provide Arubans their first non-stop service to one of most popular destinations in the world, while our new non-stop Atlanta service provides connecting service to more than thirty destinations in the United States". Atlanta is currently serviced daily and twice daily during periods of high demand by Delta Airlines. Additional service from AirTran will create new opportunities within the domestic US market. Direct service to Orlando will not only offer opportunities for new markets to Aruba but will also offer an alternative for the Aruban population to one the most popular US cities. With the expected

new service from AirTran our air service partners from the United States will increase to eight of which American Airlines, USAirways, Continental Airlines, Delta Airlines and United Airlines are legacy carriers and Jetblue, Spirit and AirTran are our Low Cost Carriers. In addition, our US gateways will be increased to thirteen, Atlanta, Boston, Charlotte, Chicago O'Hare, Newark, Fort Lauderdale, Washington Dulles, Houston, New York JFK, New York La Guardia, Miami, Orlando and Philadelphia. Unprecedented high fuel prices during the summer of 2008, the financial crisis which resulted in the worst economic recession and the sharp decreases in demand for travel, make the announcement of new service during these times fantastic. AAA's policy of air service maintenance and diversification of the route network are its core principles and continue to have successful results. This is illustrated by positive a passenger growth figure for July 2009 of 4.5% and further complimented by this additional and new service announcement. Meetings during events such as Network and AAA's hosting of Network Latin America 2008 here in Aruba have definitely contributed to AirTran's decision to file for service to Aruba. "Welcome AirTran, welcome home!" said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA N.V. "Addition of service during these very difficult times is simply fantastic and our team is committed to ensure the success of both additional service from Atlanta and new service from Orlando. However, we believe that the local market will definitely contribute to the success of the Orlando service. We look forward to the inaugural flight in December"

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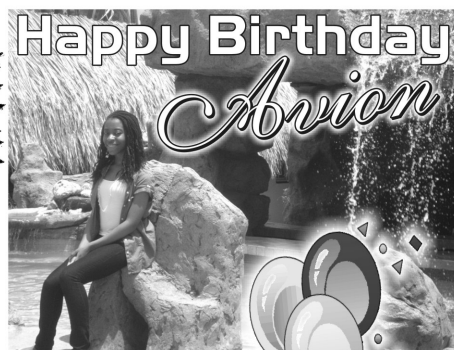
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Loyal friends of Aruba honored at the Divi Phoenix Resort



ORANJESTAD - Recently at the Divi Phoenix Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of goodwill title. The recent honorings were effected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at the Divi Phoenix Resort they call their home away from home. The following guests were honored as Distinguished Visitors after coming to Aruba for more than 10 years : Randy & Peggy Dawson, Manuel & Yira Matey, Chip & Kathy Defin and also Yirmany & Yaraimmy Matey.

Pictured Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also Greta from the Divi Phoenix Resort.



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First Plaza Quiz Night Series gets super response from 11 teams



ORANJESTAD - The first in the eight-series Plaza Quiz Nights was a blast. Teams were chafing at the bit to get going; many of the quizzers had sorely missed their weekly Tuesday nights at Café the Plaza in the Renaissance Marketplace. Three new teams registered:

These were the Power Ladies, five females who are the personification of female power brain-wise. Their first performance was not bad at all: they earned 36,5 points. More female power came from Argentina and Venezuela: teh Cerebro Descocidos, whose score

was 23,5 points. The third newcomers were called The Pirates: they still need a bit more practice, but they were looking good too. The 44 participants had a blast, and the customary winners, Bier Hier, had saved up to score sky high once again. They had no mercy and swept any resistance off the table. Bier Hier won with 58,5 points, earning two bottles of lovely South African Nederburg wine for their efforts. The Nederburg wines were handed over courtesy of Arion Wine Company; the bottles of Chardonnay and Cabernet Sauvignon are featured in an eight-week special at Café the Plaza.

The results of Plaza Quiz Night's first round were:
1. Bier Hier (58,5 pts)



2. Kamikaze (53,5 pts)
3. Synergy (51 pts)
- 4 and 5 Rudy and Corner Girls (43 pts)
- 6 and 7 Haagse Bluf and Eureka (39 pts)
8. Power Ladies (36,5 pts)
9. The Pirates (33,5 pts)
10. De Dummies (31 pts)
11. Cerebro Descocidos (23,5 pts).

And now a few questions to find out how well you would score at a Plaza Quiz Night:

Of which Australian state is Melbourne the capital?: Colonel Decker was the name of the recurring villain in which TV series? Who played the gay lover of Tom Hanks in the movie Philadelphia? and: Which chess piece can only move diagonally?

The answers are: Victoria, The A Team, Antonio Banderas and The Bishop. Wow, you were good!



Dollarisation option needs more debating

~ Say experts at one-day conference ~

WILLEMSTAD--Curaçao and St. Maarten are advised to seek broad-based support before opting for full-fledged dollarisation of their economies. The conclusion of the dollarisation conference "Opportunities and Risks of Dollarisation in the Dutch Caribbean" held in Curaçao on Monday was that more debate on the topic is necessary.

The public should also look at other countries that have dollarised economies, advised a majority of the featured speakers during the conference held under the auspices of Minister of Finance Ersilia de Lannooy.

The conference, intended to lay out the opportunities, risks and effects of dollarisation, in particular as these would apply to St. Maarten, Curaçao and the BES islands Bonaire,

St. Eustatius and Saba as new entities in the Kingdom of the Netherlands, turned out to be a very technical discussion more suited for financial experts. It was well-attended by political and financial experts of Aruba and all five islands of the Netherlands Antilles.

St. Maarten's Finance Commissioner Xavier Blackman told The Daily Herald that the conclusion was that a perfect system didn't exist and in his view dollarisation was only an option.

St. Maarten In St. Maarten's case, the question is whether there is any added value in making the step from an informal US dollar economy, which the island already has, to a formal US dollar economy.

"What are the pros and cons?

Adopting the US dollar will mean that we will lose some financial autonomy," said Blackman.

He lamented the lack of statistical information about St. Maarten, which makes it difficult to make predictions about the consequences of dollarisation.

One detail that emerged during the panel discussions, which some considered shocking, is that the St. Maarten workforce consists of 85 per cent foreign labour.

Blackman said yesterday's conference had been a good beginning and he had spoken with Minister de Lannooy about organising another conference in St. Maarten.

"We want to attract a bigger audience and have less technical discussions. The question that should be answered is: what

does dollarisation mean for the average man in the street," said Blackman.

Tromp The discussion on dollarisation was triggered after Emsley Tromp, president of the Bank of the Netherlands Antilles (BNA), stated recently that based on the effects of the financial crisis it would be better to have a dollarised economy, as this would mitigate the negative effects.

According to Tromp, the Antilles did not feel the effects of the world financial downturn because of the debt relief programme and funds made available by the Dutch Government in light of the Social Economic Initiative.

However, if such situation should reoccur in three years, the islands would feel the pinch, Tromp said.

Blackman believed that the islands would be able to withstand another world financial crisis if they took care of their budgetary debts in the meantime, but yesterday Tromp reiterated his recent statement that in the view of BNA, dollarisation was an attractive option for Curaçao and St. Maarten.

Aruba

Jane Semeleer, President of the Central Bank of Aruba, was the only speaker to oppose this viewpoint, stating that maintaining an Antillean guilder

should be thoroughly considered. According to Tromp, the deteriorating deficit on the current account balance of payment increases the vulnerability to external shocks. Therefore, dollarisation is a viable alternative monetary system for Curaçao and St. Maarten, as it eliminates this vulnerability and contributes to sound and sustainable economic development.

Semeleer believed that maintaining an own currency would contribute to the identity of the public in general. She said that if the feature countries complied with the necessary conditions it would be as viable to maintain an own currency as it would be to dollarise the economy.

Semeleer said furthermore that Aruba was surprised by BNA considering dollarising, as this would have far-reaching consequences for Aruba as well. If the BES islands as well as Curaçao and St. Maarten introduce the US dollar as their official tender, it would put the Aruban dollar under enormous pressure.

BES islands

Richard Doornbosch of the Dutch Ministry of Finance outlined how the introduction of the dollar would take place for the BES islands.



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Life's A Beach at La Cabana



EAGLE BEACH -- The creative accounting department orchestrated a day at the beach in honor of the resort associates in the Chit Chat Café, which is the associate cafeteria.

The Chief Bikini Inspector, the on-duty Life Guard and Panama Jack, joined the Hawaiian Tropic girls and the Bay Watch attractive hunks as they patrolled the crowded Chit Chat Café turned recreational beach, for just one day.

The staff at La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club enjoys a monthly themed-lunch in the cafeteria where one department gets to showcase its creativity each time.

In line with the theme, the culinary team served besides the regular menu, super juicy hot dogs, matchstick fries & corn, dishes out against a backdrop of seashells by the seashore.

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The Bistro's menu offers everyone's favorites, but with a culinary Belgian twist. This might be an unusual

presentation, an awesome side dish, a stunning combination, a surprising regional dish or a dessert that takes you to heaven and back a few times. Good service and lots of smiles will surely make the Bistro one of your favorite places to go to. Open for coffee, lunch, drinks, dinner and cocktails.

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The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

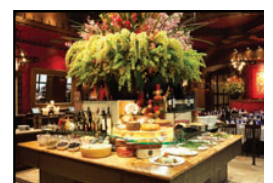
slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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tributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens

with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.

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At Divi Phoenix Resort

Lindsay & Andrew become one under Aruba's Sun



EAGLE- Lindsay Harrier & Andrew Ramirez met while attending Oklahoma State University. Lindsay was studying for her undergraduate degree in History and Andrew with his master's degree in Recreation Management. They were introduced by a mutual friend and bridesmaid, April Hart in 2003. April and Lindsay ran track together and she invited Andy out with them one night. They instantly became friends and stayed in contact over the next eight months, as Lindsay had left for an internship in Pittsburgh, Pa. When she returned to school in the fall they began dating and have been inseparable ever since. In 2005 upon graduation they moved to Los Angeles together for Andy's job. Two years after they moved again to Davis in northern California, In April of 2008 after much discussion they decided to become engaged, so after work they met

at the jewelry store and purchased a ring and started planning. The lovebirds knew right away they wanted a destination wedding and Aruba was the natural choice since they had vacationed there two years earlier and loved it. The wedding took place on Eagle Beach at Divi Phoenix Resort. The bridesmaids dresses were sapphire blue and their bouquets were made by hand by Lindsay's sister which was made for a special touch on this special day. The ceremony was delivered by Ruben Trappenburg and witnessed by 30 family members and friends. Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies and Celebrations did an excellent job at creating what the couple desired. Following the ceremony a dinner reception was held at Pure Beach Lounge. The guests mingled with appetizers and cocktails while the newlyweds enjoyed their romantic photo shoot at sunset. The evening

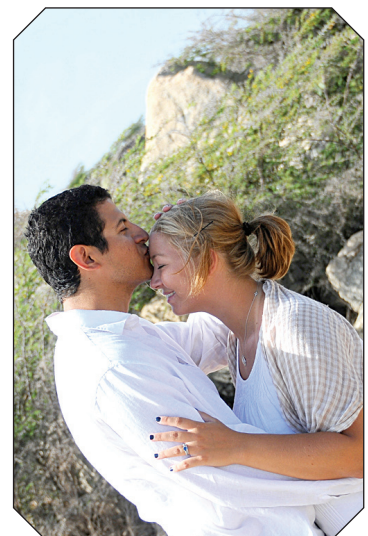


continued with music under the stars. The priceless moments were captured by Bella Aruba Photography who also enjoyed a fantastic photo shoot around the island the following week. Andy currently is employed by UC Davis as the Assistant Director of Competitive Sports and Lindsay is a Sr. Instructor



for the San Juan School District's after school program for high school students while she returns to college to obtain her teaching credential. Andy and Lindsay share a love of all sports, traveling, good food and wine and spending quality time with their family and friends. They truly enjoyed there wedding-moon and are looking to get back to reality but also are planning their anniversary in Aruba.

God Bless from Lissy, Angela and Aruba Today!!!



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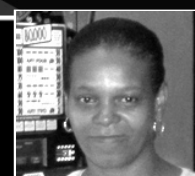
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MACHMUD**
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Mystery
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casino:
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**MARTA
LUCIA
KOOLMAN**
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LOEFSTOK**
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Aruba defeats CNMI, 3-5 in World Series

CNMI District Administrator James Ada tipped his hat off to the CNMI Junior All-Stars for their several achievements in last week's World Series in Taylor, Michigan. First, for becoming the first Junior All-Star team from the CNMI to win more than a game in the World Series. The CNMI youth sluggers prevailed over Italy in their first game and then pulled off a come-from-behind win over Canada, 11-9. "They gave the CNMI its most wins in the Junior League of the World Series and for that I congratulate them," Ada said.

The CNMI played in the World Series (Junior League) from 2001 and 2005, but in each occasion, no team won more than one game.

Another achievement for the Commonwealth's bet was its victory over Canada.

Ada said from 2001 to 2005, the CNMI failed to beat a team from Canada. The Commonwealth's three wins in the five-year span were all against teams from Europe. Ada added no team from Asia Pacific had defeated Canada since 2001

before the CNMI Junior All-Stars snapped that losing skid.

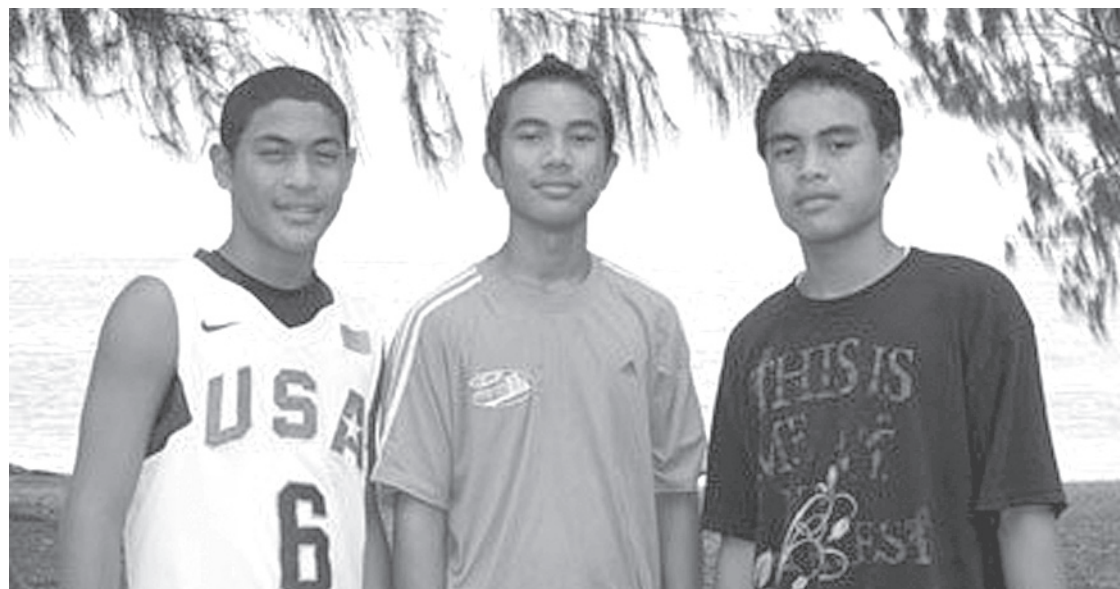
Against Canada, the CNMI was behind, 5-9, after five complete innings when pitcher LaMarc Iguel shut out the Coquitlam Little League of Coquitlam, British Columbia, while Jeremy Rabauliman and Brian Camacho led the team's offense for a come-from-behind win.

"Every time these kids huddle, you can see in their eyes that they are determined to go all out, leading or not, and win as many games as they can," Ada said.

The next on the CNMI's list of achievements was the back-to-back homers of Jeremy Rabauliman and Brian Camacho. Rabauliman had a three-run homer at the bottom of the first, while Camacho went solo.

"The last time the CNMI hit back-to-back homers in the World Series was in 1997, when Pete Tomokane and the CNMI Big League All-Stars made it to Fort Lauderdale," Ada said.

The Thelma Mizer-managed squad went on to finish third in the International Pool with its 2-2



From left, the CNMI Junior All-Stars' Jeremy Rabauliman, LaMarc Iguel, and Henry Rabauliman, seen here posing for a group photo, played outstanding games in the World Series in Taylor, Michigan last week. (Roselyn B. Monroyo)

record. The CNMI lost to Aruba, 3-5, and to Puerto Rico, 1-11.

"The game against Aruba was almost ours. We were leading 3-1, and needed only two outs to end the game," said Ada, adding that Aruba coaches scouted the CNMI bets during their debut game against Italy.

"They stayed late night to scout our boys. They (Aruba players/coaches) and I believed the rest

of the teams in the pool, and spectators, too, respected our boys. They were surprised to see our team beat Italy and from that evening, they knew our boys have what it takes to win in the World Series," Ada said.

Ada said the crowd and Aruba even showed their appreciation to the CNMI Junior All-Stars during the closing ceremony.

"It was a very emotional moment

for our team, as when it was their turn to do the parade in the closing ceremony, people were chanting, CNMI, CNMI, CNMI," Ada said.

"I was at the bleachers when the coach from Aruba spoke and made a special acknowledgement of our boys, for giving them a great fight. It was really a proud moment for the CNMI," Ada said. Aruba went on to beat the favored Puerto Rico in the pool finals, 7-5, before losing to a team from Scottsdale, Arizona in the World Series, 1-9.

"Our kids went to the World Series on a mission and they accomplished that by earning the respect and admiration of players, coaches, officials, and spectators. You can't ask for anything more, as they showed those who watched the games in Michigan that CNMI knows its baseball and plays a great one," the CNMI District official added. Besides Camacho, Iguel, and Rabauliman, other members of the CNMI Junior All-Stars were Christian Mizer, Henry Rabauliman, Frankie Camacho, Ricardo Dela Cruz, Aldelbert Lizama, Alan Aguon, Jared Sablan, Patrick Tenorio, Arthur Jebehn, and Poland Masaharu. Oliver Secharmidal and Bernard Cabrera were the coaches.

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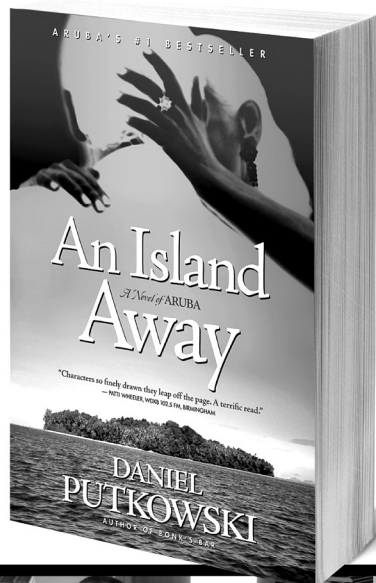
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Loyal Guests honored at Marriott Surf Club Resort

PALM BEACH - Recently at the Marriott Surf Club vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title.

The recent honorings were affected by the Aruba Tourism Authority Associate Ricardo Croes at Marriott Surf Club Resort, they call their home away from home. Jeannette & Walter Herrmann were honored as Ambassadors of Goodwill after visiting Aruba for 30 years and also Lou & Joy Ferola and Edward & Betty Jane Heinz were honored as Distinguished Visitors for the Island of Aruba.

Pictured: Mr. Ricardo Croes together with all honorees and also staff at the Marriott Surf Club Resort.



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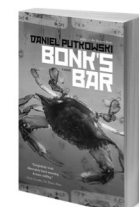
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Stocks waver after Dow's 6-day climb

By SARA LEPRO, AP Business Writer
NEW YORK — Stocks drifted Wednesday as positive reports on home sales and factory orders failed to galvanize buyers. An increasingly cautious mood has gripped the market in recent days, following a period of fervid buying this spring and summer that sent stocks up more than 45 percent since early March. While economic data is improving, investors are now questioning whether the market can go much higher without clear evidence of economic growth. "The general consensus seems as though the market is ripe for some sort of pullback at some point," said Andrew Frankel, co-president of Stuart Frankel & Co. "We seem to be floating up on air." With trading volume and news flow tapering down amid Wall Street's annual summer slowdown, analysts say there are few near-term catalysts that could spur the market higher. Stocks seesawed without a clear direction Wednesday despite a Commerce Department report that said new home sales rose 9.6 percent in July for the fourth straight monthly increase. Sales rose to 433,000, the strongest pace since September and well above the 390,000 figure economists expected. The latest sign of improvement in housing didn't do much to impress investors, however, who have already factored in a recovery in the long-suffering home industry. Some of the latest gains can also be attributed to a federal tax credit for first-time home owners currently set to expire in November, and the industry has been pressing Congress to extend it. Separately, the Commerce Department said orders for goods expected to last at least three years rose 4.9 percent in July — the biggest jump in two years and more than the 3 percent increase economists had expected. However the overall increase was driven by a surge in orders for transportation equipment, which benefited from the government's recently expired Cash for Clunkers program that drove thousands of people to trade in older vehicles for new cars. Excluding transportation goods, orders rose 0.8 percent, just short of analysts' expectations. In midafternoon trading, the Dow rose 9.52, or 0.1 percent, to 9,548.81. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 0.12, or

0.01 percent, to 1,027.88, and the Nasdaq composite index fell 1.24, or 0.1 percent, to 2,022.99. Declining stocks outnumbered advancers by about 3-to-2 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to a relatively light 653.4 million shares, down from 730.8 million shares at the same time on Tuesday. In other trading, the Russell 2000 index of smaller companies slipped 0.33, or 0.1 percent, to 582.89. Shares of homebuilders surged for a second day after the housing data showed the supply of new homes on the market shrank to the lowest level since April 2007. If supply is decreasing, builders may need to ramp up production. Hovnanian Enterprises Inc. rose 42 cents, or 9.2 percent, to \$4.99, tacking on to its 6.5 percent jump the day before. Lennar Corp. rose 44 cents, or 2.9 percent, to \$15.41. Both stocks are at their highest levels since October. Retail stocks were mostly higher after a handful of upbeat earnings reports. Shares of Dollar Tree Inc. rose \$2.59, or 5.4 percent, to \$50.49 after the company posted a 51 percent jump in its second-quarter profit as its deeply discounted goods attracted cash-strapped consumers. Sharp declines in industrial and material stocks also weighed on the market as commodities prices dropped again. A long rally in commodities prices that started earlier this year has been sputtering in recent weeks amid concerns of waning demand from China. Oil prices fell further Wednesday after the government reported an increase in crude supplies. The same report a week ago, which showed an unexpected decline, touched off a rally in crude that sent prices to a 10-month high. Oil fell 63 cents to \$71.42 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Government bond prices were slightly lower even after an auction of \$39 billion in five-year notes attracted favorable demand. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.46 percent from 3.44 percent late Tuesday. The dollar rose against other major currencies. Prices for gold and other metals fell. Overseas, Japan's Nikkei stock average rose 1.4 percent. Britain's FTSE 100 declined 0.5 percent, Germany's DAX index fell 0.6 percent, and France's CAC-40 lost 0.3 percent.



A sold sign is posted outside a newly constructed luxury home in Wellesley, Mass., Tuesday Aug. 25, 2009. New U.S. home sales surged 9.6 percent in July, rising for the fourth straight month and beating expectations as the housing market marches steadily back from its historic downturn. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

Plus-size fashion market squeezed in recession

By LISA ORKIN EMMANUEL, Associated Press Writer
MIAMI — The American waistline may be expanding, but plus-size shoppers are tightening their belts. People just aren't buying plus-size clothing at the rate they used to. Apparel in general — being a discretionary purchase — is suffering because of the economy, but plus-size has been particularly hard hit. According to the NPD Group, a market research company, the overall women's apparel business is down about 5 percent and plus-size is down almost 10 percent from the 12 months ending in May 2009 compared to the same time the year before. It's hard to account for the dip at a time when more than half of American women are estimated to wear plus-sizes, generally considered size 14 and up, but analysts have some theories. "The stigma still continues despite the majority of the population is overweight," said Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst at NPD. The stigma means some retailers don't want to lure overweight customers and send out the "wrong" image, experts said, and the customers themselves may feel put off by many stores. Some retailers, including Old Navy, Banana Republic and Ann Taylor, have taken their plus-size collections out of stores and are selling only online — which some experts say plus-size shoppers prefer. Others, including H&M, have dropped out of the plus-size market. Several years ago, stores had made an effort to expand the plus-size market, but they have basically abandoned that during the recession, Cohen said. "They've made feeble attempts at going after it, but now that business is challenged, it is first thing knocked out of the store," he said. "Even

though they built it, this was not a field of dreams for the retailer." And there's also the uncomfortable connection between obesity and lower incomes, which might help explain the dip. A study of nationally representative data on American workers by two professors at Stanford University found that obese workers at the same level of job experience, education and gender earned less than their thinner colleagues. For women, there was a statistically significant difference of wages of \$2.64 per hour. For men it was 58 cents per hour, which wasn't statistically significant. "The recession has hit workers hard, obese (workers) are hit particularly hard," said Jay Bhattacharya, associate professor of medicine at Stanford University. Christie L. Nordhielm, associate professor of marketing at the University of Michigan, said that if overweight people are paid less, it would make sense that they would cut down on buying clothes. "If they are stressed about paying their mortgage they are not going to be in a clothing store getting this year's hot new look," she said. Still, several brands are reaching out to plus-size customers. Lane Bryant is launching a couture-inspired line called the icon Collection by Lane Bryant in September, while Forever 21 has launched a plus-size line called Faith 21. And for some retailers, plus-size clothing remains a relative bright spot. "I will say that the general apparel and upscale retailers is soft and large sizes is no worse — a little better — than the apparel," said Frank Doroff, Bloomingdale's vice chairman and general merchandise manager for ready-to-wear.

Hardly convincing

Listening to part of the discussions at the dollarisation conference on Monday, one could not escape the impression that "fear of the unknown" plays a major role in some of the reservations expressed. While nobody would dispute the need for more information and debate, the arguments against switching to the US dollar particularly for future Country St. Maarten were hardly convincing.

One example was the assertion that dollarisation is not needed to promote fiscal and budgetary discipline, because the agreements made with the Netherlands in the framework concerning financial supervision offer sufficient guarantees. Such reasoning prompts the question: What is the problem of adding an "extra guarantee" by switching to the dollar, which would eliminate altogether the possibility of monetary financing of government budget deficits? In other words: one does not exclude the other.

The risk of price increases was mentioned, but at least in St. Maarten most prices are already listed in dollars (in addition to Antillean guilders as now legally required), while there is also the element of competition. The price comparison between local supermarkets per product that is regularly published by the Island Government is also a good tool to help prevent price-gouging.

Representatives of commercial banks at the conference admitted that they would lose income now made on the conversion of dollars to guilders and vice-versa, but other than some possible downsizing in that sector they did not see major problems. With one local bank reporting a whopping profit increase of 90 per cent in the Windward Islands not too long ago, that should not be too much of a concern anyway.

One advantage is that the Central Bank in its current form will no longer be needed and can be replaced by a much smaller and less costly regulatory body for the financial sector, with possibilities for international affiliation. For St. Maarten residents it would in any case mean no longer being "punished" for doing business in the island's predominant currency by having to pay a one per cent licence fee every time they take up dollars. What particularly local politicians also need to understand is that public confidence in their ability to balance the books and manage the public finances in a sound manner is not exactly high. After all, the Netherlands Antilles – particularly Curaçao, but also the Central Government of which St. Maarten has always been part – ran up a debt of five billion guilders, despite what can be considered an annual "windfall" of hundreds of millions in profit tax from the off-shore sector that lasted for years.

It took the Dutch Government to solve this pressing problem by taking over most of the debt in connection with the constitutional changes. There may be enough safeguards in place now to prevent such a situation from reoccurring, but that provides no guarantees for the future.

The bottom line is that the US dollar already rules in St. Maarten and that will only increase when there no longer are Central Government departments on the island. With the Netherlands Antilles soon ceasing to exist and the BES islands going with the dollar, maintaining the Antillean guilder is not an option, so it would be a new Curaçao/St. Maarten monetary unit tied to the US dollar, as the guilder has been since 1971.

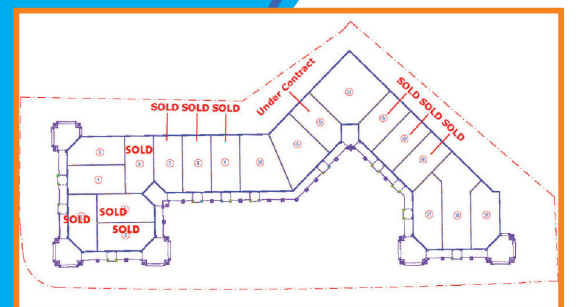
That the President of the Central Bank headquartered in Curaçao himself favours the dollar, despite the fact that it would diminish the role of the very institution he heads, says a lot. Certainly for St. Maarten with its de facto dollar economy, the choice seems clear.

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Sen. Edward Kennedy, 77, dies after cancer battle

BOB SALSBERG
GLEN JOHNSON

Associated Press Writers
HYANNIS PORT,
Massachusetts (AP) —

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, the last surviving brother in an enduring political dynasty and one of the most influential senators in history, died Tuesday night at his home after a yearlong struggle with brain cancer. He was 77.

In nearly 50 years in the Senate, Kennedy, a liberal Democrat from Massachusetts, served alongside 10 presidents — his brother John Fitzgerald Kennedy among them — compiling an impressive list of legislative achievements on health care, civil rights, education, immigration and more.



In this April 7, 2006 file photo, Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass. gestures while discussing his upcoming new book "America Back on Track", in his office on Capitol Hill in Washington. Associated Press

In a brief statement to reporters at his rented vacation home on Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, President Barack Obama eulogized Kennedy as one of the "most accomplished Americans" in history — and a man whose work in Congress helped give millions new opportunities. "Including myself," added the nation's first black president.

Kennedy, who died Tuesday night at his Cape Cod home, will be buried Saturday at prestigious Arlington National Cemetery near Washington after a funeral Mass in Boston. Before that, he is to lie in repose at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston.

Continued on next page

World leaders pay tribute to Kennedy

JILL LAWLESS

Associated Press Writer
DUBLIN (AP) — Nowhere outside of America has the Kennedy legacy been more deeply felt than in Ireland, where photographs of the family adorn homes and hundreds claim to be distant relations of the glittering dynasty that brought the first Roman Catholic to the White House.

Here, Senator Edward Kennedy is largely known as JFK's brother. But he was also a power broker who mobilized Irish Americans and their political views on Northern Ireland — a kingmaker whose actions in the years before the Good Friday peace talks served to lay the groundwork for a lasting accord.

"He lived to see two great chasms bridged, between Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland and between black and white

in his own United States," former Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said. "These achievements, which were the dreams imagined by his brothers in his youth, were the legacy of a long life and of a good and great man."

Kennedy's family had strong links to Ireland — and to Britain. His father Joseph Kennedy served as ambassador to the Court of St. James. His sister, Jean Kennedy Smith, worked as the U.S. envoy to Ireland for five years under Bill Clinton. Initially a strong supporter of the Irish nationalist cause, Kennedy was a key American promoter of the peace process, urging Britain to negotiate with the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party, and also reaching out to Protestant Unionists.

David Owen, who served as British foreign secretary in the 1970s, said Kennedy put

his weight behind peace in Northern Ireland even at the risk of alienating powerful Irish-American allies whose sympathies lay with the province's Catholic Irish nationalists rather than the British Protestant majority.

"His influence on the peace process, and his influence on successive American presidents was I think absolutely crucial, and in particular of course on President Clinton," Owen told the BBC.

Martin McGuinness, formerly an Irish Republican Army commander and now the senior Catholic in Northern Ireland's power-sharing administration, told the broadcaster that despite disagreements he had "always respected" the senator, saying that "he understood what was required for the conflict to be resolved."

At a Dublin pub, 69-year-old



Ireland's Taoiseach (Prime Minister) Brian Cowen pays tribute to the late US Senator Ted Kennedy at Government Buildings in Dublin, early Wednesday Aug. 26, 2009. Kennedy died of a brain tumor on Tuesday.

Associated Press

Gerry Keating said Kennedy's role in the peace process made him "a good man."

"He was a great friend of this country," Keating said.

The senator from Massachusetts inspired praise from leaders of nations and campaigners for human rights, and many expressed sadness at learning of his death Tuesday from a brain tumor.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised Kennedy for "keeping and upholding the

ideals and goals of the United Nations" and said his work "will be long remembered in the minds and in the hearts of many people, particularly vulnerable people, and those people whose human rights have been abused."

"He had been the voice of the voiceless and the defender of many defenseless people," Ban told reporters at U.N. headquarters in New York.

Continued on page 6

Continued on from front page

Also buried at Arlington, just across the Potomac River from Washington, are two Kennedy brothers, the president and former Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, as well as John Kennedy's wife, Jacqueline, their baby son, Patrick, who died after two days, and their stillborn child.

Edward Kennedy's only run for the White House ended in defeat in 1980, when President Jimmy Carter turned back his challenge for the party's nomination. More than a quarter-century later, he handed then-Sen. Barack Obama an endorsement at a critical point in the campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, explicitly likening the young contender to President Kennedy.

To the American public, Kennedy was best known as the last surviving son of America's most glamorous political family, father figure and, memorably, eulogist of an Irish-American clan plagued again and again by tragedy. But his career was forever marred by an accident at Chappaquiddick in 1969, when a car he was driving plunged off a bridge, killing a young woman.

Kennedy's death triggered an outpouring of superlatives from Democrats and Republicans as well as foreign leaders.

"An important chapter in our history has come to an end. Our country has lost a great leader, who picked up the torch of his fallen brothers and became the greatest United States senator of our time," Obama said in a written statement.

"For five decades, virtually every major piece of legislation to advance the civil rights, health and economic well being of the American people bore his name and resulted from his efforts," said Obama.

Vice President Joe Biden said that in the Senate Kennedy had restored his "sense of idealism." Sen. Orrin Hatch, a conservative Republican who formed a political alliance with Kennedy on some health-related issues, called Kennedy "an iconic, larger-than-life" senator with outsize influence. "You couldn't help but like him, but on the other hand the fights were real and they were knockdown, drag-out battles. But that's the way it should be," Hatch told reporters in his home state of Utah. "We were like fighting brothers."

Kennedy's family announced his death in a brief statement released early Wednesday.

"We've lost the irreplaceable center of our family and joyous light in our lives, but the



This undated file photo shows the Kennedy brothers, John F. Kennedy, left, Robert Kennedy, and Ted Kennedy, right, in Hyannis Port, Mass. Ted Kennedy, has died after battling a brain tumor his family announced early Wednesday Aug. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

inspiration of his faith, optimism, and perseverance will live on in our hearts forever," it said. "We thank everyone who gave him care and support over this last year, and everyone who stood with him for so many years in his tireless march for progress toward justice, fairness and opportunity for all."

A few hours later, two vans left the famed Kennedy compound at Hyannis Port in pre-dawn darkness. Both bore hearse license plates — with the word "hearse" blacked out.

Several hundred miles away, flags flew at half-staff at the U.S. Capitol, and Obama ordered the same at the White House and all federal buildings.

In his later years, Kennedy cut a barrel-chested figure, with a swath of white hair, a booming voice and a thick, widely imitated Boston accent. He coupled fist-pumping floor speeches with his well-honed Irish charm and formidable negotiating skills. He was both a passionate liberal and a clear-eyed pragmatist, willing to reach across the aisle.

He was first elected to the Senate in 1962, taking the seat that his brother John had occupied before winning the White House, and served longer than all but two senators in history.

His own hopes of reaching the White House were damaged

— perhaps doomed — in 1969 by the scandal that came to be known as Chappaquiddick.

On the night of July 18, 1969, Kennedy drove his car off a bridge and into a pond on Chappaquiddick Island, on Martha's Vineyard. Mary Jo Kopechne, a 28-year-old worker with Robert Kennedy's campaign, was found dead in the submerged car's back seat 10 hours later.

Kennedy, then 37, pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of an accident and received a two-month suspended sentence and a year's probation. A judge eventually determined there was "probable cause to believe that Kennedy operated his motor vehicle negligently ... and that such operation appears to have contributed to the death of Mary Jo Kopechne."

He sought the White House more than a decade later, lost the Democratic nomination to President Jimmy Carter, and bowed out with a stirring valedictory that echoed across the decades: "For all those whose cares have been our concern, the work goes on, the cause endures, the hope still lives and the dream shall never die."

Kennedy was diagnosed with a cancerous brain tumor in May 2008 and underwent surgery and a grueling regimen of radiation and chemotherapy.

He made a surprise return to the Capitol last summer to cast the decisive vote for the Democrats on Medicare, the government's health care program for the elderly. He made sure he was there again last January to see his former Senate colleague Barack Obama sworn in as president, but suffered a seizure at a celebratory luncheon afterward.

He also made a surprise and forceful appearance at last summer's Democratic National Convention, where he spoke of his own illness and said health care was the cause of his life. His death occurred precisely one year later, almost to the hour.

He was away from the Senate for much of this year, leaving Republicans and Democrats to speculate about the impact what his absence meant for the fate of Obama's health care proposals.

Under state law, Kennedy's successor will be chosen by special election. In his last known public act, the senator urged Massachusetts state

The younger Kennedy said that gave family members a surprise blessing, as they were able to spend more time with the senator and to tell him how much he had meant to their lives.

Kennedy arrived at his place in the Senate after a string of family tragedies. He was the only one of the four Kennedy brothers to die of natural causes.

Kennedy's eldest brother, Joseph, was killed in a plane crash in World War II. President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas in 1963. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was gunned down in Los Angeles as he campaigned for the 1968 Democratic presidential nomination.

Years later, in 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr. was killed in a plane crash at age 38. His wife died with him.

It fell to Ted Kennedy to deliver the eulogies, to comfort his brothers' widows, to mentor fatherless nieces and nephews. It was Ted Kennedy who walked JFK's daughter, Caroline, down



In this July 30, 1983 file photo, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, shown at Edward Kennedy's annual summer time party at his home in Hyannisport, Mass. Shriver, JFK's sister and Special Olympics founder.

Associated Press

legislators to give Democratic Gov. Deval Patrick the power to name an interim replacement. But that appears unlikely, leaving Democrats in Washington with one less vote for at least the next several months as they struggle to pass Obama's health care legislation.

His death came less than two weeks after that of his sister Eunice Kennedy Shriver on Aug. 11. Kennedy was not present for the funeral, an indication of the precariousness of his own health. Of nine children born to Joseph and Rose Kennedy, only one — Jean Kennedy Smith, survives.

In a recent interview with The Associated Press, Kennedy's son Rep. Patrick Kennedy, who represents Rhode Island, said his father had defied the predictions of doctors by surviving more than a year with his fight against brain cancer.

the aisle at her wedding.

Politically, his concession speech at the Democratic convention in 1980 turned out to be a defining moment. At 48, he seemed liberated from the towering expectations and high hopes invested in him after the death of his brothers, and he plunged into his work in the Senate. In his later years, after he had divorced and remarried, he came to be regarded as a statesman in Congress, with a growing reputation as an effective, hard-working lawmaker.

His legislative achievements included bills to provide health insurance for children of the working poor, the landmark 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, Meals on Wheels for the elderly, abortion clinic access, family leave, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Kennedy's absence leaves Senate void of dealmaker

By LAURIE KELLMAN

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — In an era of bitter political division, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy's death silenced a singular voice of bipartisanship at a time when colleagues are struggling with angry constituents and each other over an elusive plan to overhaul the nation's health care system.

Some lawmakers said Tuesday the current stalemate is the result of Kennedy's absence for the past few, crucial months. Some hope to rescue the embattled legislation as his legacy.

It's not clear that the post-Kennedy Senate includes anyone with the credibility among ideological opponents, the dealmaking skills or the inside knowledge to strike a quick agreement.

"There is nobody else like him," said Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., who alternated with Kennedy over the years as chairman and ranking minority-party member of the health committee. "If he had been physically up to it and been engaged on this, we probably would have an agreement by now."

"Teddy was the only Democrat who could move their whole base," Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, said. "If he finally agreed, the whole base would come along even if they didn't like it."

Kennedy lost the fight he couldn't win Tuesday, to brain cancer at 77. But he had won countless others by embodying an increasingly rare type of bipartisanship — the kind perceived not as a threat to ideology or fundraising prowess, but as a way of getting something done, however imperfect.

"Bipartisanship takes a person that has leadership and personal charm, quite frankly, and a desire to get a result," said former Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott of Mississippi. "He didn't try to destroy you. That's what's happening in Washington now. It's gotten so mean."

Over 47 years in the Senate, Kennedy evolved into an institution himself, equal parts



LEFT: In a May 24, 1999 file photo Senator Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., jokingly holds the Profile in Courage award lantern as if he intends to keep it, as co-winner, Senator John McCain, R-Ariz., looks on at right during ceremonies at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. In back row are their spouses, Victoria Kennedy, left, and Cindy McCain. Sen. RIGHT: In this Jan 8, 2002 file photo, President Bush, and Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., laugh before speaking at an event in Boston. Kennedy, the liberal lion of the Senate, has died after battling a brain tumor. He was 77. Kennedy's family announced his death in a brief statement released early Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009.

Associated Press

liberal icon and dealmaker who combined those skills to forge agreement on some of the most sweeping and controversial social legislation of his time.

Kennedy worked out an agreement with President George W. Bush on the No Child Left Behind Act. He regularly worked with Hatch, notably on a federally funded program for those with HIV/AIDS, health insurance for lower-income children and tax breaks to encourage the development of medicines for rare diseases.

When he compromised, Kennedy's base may have grumbled but did not question his fidelity to liberal principles. Republicans trusted him to be straight with them in tough negotiations and not make it personal. And no one questioned his knowledge of Senate procedure, rivaling even West Virginia's Robert C. Byrd, who no longer plays a big role in Senate business. Without Kennedy, the 99-member chamber lacks anyone playing precisely his role doling out the goodwill and procedural expertise necessary to make the Senate wheels spin through controversial legislation. The Democratic caucus falls from an effective supermajority of 60, enough to kill Republican filibusters, to 59, including

two independents.

No one is irreplaceable in the Senate, or so a popular saying goes. But John McCain, R-Ariz., called Kennedy just that in a statement Wednesday. McCain, last year the GOP presidential nominee, was even clearer over the weekend.

"He had a way of sitting down with the parties at a table and making the right concessions, which really are the essence of successful negotiations," McCain said on ABC's "This Week."

"It's huge that he's absent," McCain added. If Kennedy had been engaged in the debate past June, when he handed his committee chairmanship duties to Chris Dodd, D-Conn., "I think the health care reform might be in a very different place today."

Democrats widely mourned Kennedy's passing on personal and political grounds and urged their colleagues to adopt Kennedy's big-picture view of the world generally and health care specifically. There was talk Wednesday of honoring Kennedy within the Capitol, possibly by posting his portrait in the Senate Reception Room with the likenesses of other senators hailed for their bipartisan accomplishments.

"My hope is that this will maybe cause people to take a breath, step back and start



talking with each other again in more civil tones about what needs to be done, because that's what Teddy would do," said Dodd, Kennedy's close friend who has taken a lead role on health care negotiations and is, himself, battling prostate cancer.

"We all share the same principles. How you get there is complicated, but that's what Senator Kennedy dedicated his life to," Dodd added. "In his memory, I will do everything I can as long as I can stand in the United States Senate to help us achieve that goal." Vice President Joe Biden, in a tearful salute to his friend, said Kennedy raised the level of discourse and senatorial

behavior and in the course of rising from dark chapters of his own life embodied the most selfless human qualities. "It was never about him ... he never was petty," Biden told reporters, recalling how Kennedy stood by him when the former senator's wife and child were killed in a car accident.

"I just hope we remember how he treated other people and how he made other people look at themselves and look at one another," Biden added. "That will be the truly fundamental, unifying legacy of Teddy Kennedy's life if that happens, and it will for a while at least in the Senate."



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Obama says 'thank you and goodbye' to Kennedy



President Barack Obama pauses as he reads a statement about the death of Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, while on vacation on Martha's Vineyard in Chilmark. Associated Press

GLEN JOHNSON, PHILIP ELLIOTT
Associated Press Writers
CHILMARK, Massachusetts (AP) — Edward M. Kennedy was much more than just former Senate colleague and influential legislator to Barack Obama, evident in the president's personal, mournful tribute on Wednesday. Obama lauded the Massachusetts senator's

tireless work for legislation that reshaped the lives of millions of Americans — “including myself,” America's first black president added in a poignant hint of affection. Also clearly not forgotten as a grieving president took a break from his summer vacation on Martha's Vineyard to mark Kennedy's death from brain cancer late Tuesday night: the great political debt Obama

owes Kennedy. “His fight has given us the opportunity we were denied when his brothers John and Robert were taken from us: the blessing of time to say thank you — and goodbye,” Obama said.

Obama owes his ascension to the White House perch that was denied Kennedy in part to the senator's help.

At a crucial moment in the brutal, marathon presidential primary contests, Kennedy endorsed Obama over Democratic rival Hillary Rodham Clinton. During his endorsement, Edward Kennedy painted Obama as heir to the legacy of his slain brothers. That connection, to the dynasty of John, Robert and Edward Kennedy, lent the young contender immeasurable credibility with establishment Democrats and cemented a personal friendship.

“I remember another such time, in the 1960s, when I came to the Senate at the age of 30. We had a new president who inspired the nation — especially the young — to seek a new frontier,”

said Kennedy during the endorsement speech. “I've seen it. I've lived it. And with Barack Obama, we can do it again.”

“Your time only comes once, and this is your time,” Kennedy had told Obama in urging him to seek the White House in 2006, according to a Kennedy aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to recount a private conversation.

All high praise from a man whose family name, Obama said Wednesday, “is synonymous with the Democratic Party.”

Kennedy will lie in repose for two days at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum in Boston, and a memorial service is scheduled there Friday night. Kennedy's funeral was scheduled for Saturday morning at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Basilica in Boston, followed by his burial Saturday afternoon with his brothers at Arlington National Cemetery outside Washington.

A White House official said Obama would deliver a eulogy at Saturday's funeral. The

official spoke on condition of anonymity because the Kennedy family had not yet made an announcement.

Both Kennedy and Obama had giant personalities and inspired a generation of Americans with similar themes of service and idealism. They became comrades in the Senate over their opposition to the war in Iraq and nurtured a relationship from there.

When Kennedy's brain cancer kept him from delivering his stepdaughter's college commencement address, Obama left the campaign trail and stood in for his then-Senate colleague.

Returning the favor, Kennedy traveled to the Democratic National Committee's nominating convention in Denver a year ago — one year to the day of his death — at great risk to his health. He delivered a heartfelt, seven-minute speech that brought many to their feet and some to tears.

“The work begins anew. The hope rises again. And the dream lives on,” Kennedy said, an echo of the concession speech that ended his 1980 presidential bid.

The senator returned to the Capitol in January to see Obama sworn in, suffering a seizure at a celebratory luncheon afterward.

They were bound on a lighter note, too. When Obama was faced with the much-watched choice of a dog for his two daughters, it was Kennedy who gave him “Bo,” a Portuguese water dog like the pair of dogs that have been a fixture in Kennedy's Capitol Hill offices.

Since becoming president, Obama has gone out of his way to pay tribute to Kennedy. He invoked him during a joint session of Congress in February, led a “Happy Birthday” sing-along during a tribute at the Kennedy Center and hand-delivered a letter from the senator to Pope Benedict XVI.

Most recently, Obama awarded Kennedy the nation's highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

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Crime story author Dominick Dunne, 83, dies in NYC

POLLY ANDERSON

Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Author Dominick Dunne, who told stories of shocking crimes among the rich and famous through his magazine articles and best-selling novels such as "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles," died Wednesday in his home at age 83.

Dunne's son, actor-director Griffin Dunne, said in a statement released by Vanity Fair magazine that his father had been battling bladder cancer. But the cancer had not prevented Dunne from working and socializing, his twin passions.

In September 2008, against the orders of his doctor and the wishes of his family, Dunne flew to Las Vegas to attend the kidnapping trial of O.J. Simpson, a postscript to his coverage of Simpson's 1995 murder trial, which spiked Dunne's considerable fame.

In the past year, Dunne had traveled to Germany and the Dominican Republic for experimental stem cell treatments to fight his cancer. He wrote that he and actress Farrah Fawcett were in the same cancer clinic in Bavaria but didn't see each other. Fawcett, a 1970s sex symbol and TV star of "Charlie's Angels," died in June at age 62.

Dunne discontinued his column at Vanity Fair to concentrate on finishing another novel, "Too Much Money," which is to come out in December. He also made a number of appearances to promote a documentary film about his life, "After the Party," which was being released on DVD.

Dunne, who lived in Manhattan, was beginning to write his memoirs and, until close to the end of his life, he posted messages on his Web site commenting on events in his life and thanking his fans for their support.

Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter praised Dunne as a gifted reporter who proved as fascinating as the people he wrote about.

"Anyone who remembers the sight of O.J. Simpson trying on the famous glove probably remembers a bespectacled Dunne, resplendent in his trademark Turnbull & Asser monogrammed shirt, on the court bench behind him," Carter wrote in a statement released Wednesday. "It is fair to say that the halls of Vanity Fair

will be lonelier without him and that, indeed, we will not see his like anytime soon, if ever again."

Earlier this summer, Dunne was well enough to attend a Manhattan party hosted by Tina Brown. Chatting with an Associated Press reporter, he spoke of Michael Jackson, who had recently died, and remembered lunching with the singer and Elizabeth Taylor. Jackson was so excited to see her, Dunne said, he presented her with a diamond necklace just for the occasion.

Dunne was part of a famous family that also included his brother, novelist and screenwriter John Gregory Dunne; his brother's wife, author Joan Didion; and his son.

A one-time movie producer, Dunne carved a new career starting in the 1980s as a chronicler of the problems of the wealthy and powerful.

Tragedy struck his life in 1982 when his actress daughter, Dominique, was slain — and that experience informed his fiction and his journalistic efforts from then on.

"If you go through what I went through, losing my daughter, you have strong, strong feelings of revenge," Dunne said in 1990 in discussing his novel "People Like Us," in which the protagonist shoots the man convicted of killing his daughter.

"As a novelist, I could create a situation in which I could do in the book what I couldn't do in real life. I intended for Gus (the character in the book) to kill the guy. But when I got to that part I couldn't write it. He wounds him and goes to prison himself for a couple of years."

He was as successful as a journalist as he was as a novelist and spent many of his later years in courtrooms covering high profile trials. Writing for Vanity Fair, he covered such cases as the William Kennedy Smith rape trial in 1991 and the trial of Erik and Lyle Menendez, accused of murdering their millionaire parents, in 1993.

"You're talking about kids who had everything — the cars, the tennis courts, swimming pools, credit cards. And yet this happened," he said at the time of the Menendez trial.

As much as those trials riveted the nation, they were far overshadowed in 1994 when football great O.J. Simpson was

accused of killing his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. With a trial that stretched out over a year and cable TV outlets providing endless coverage, the bespectacled Dunne became a familiar face to millions.

"I especially like to watch the jurors," Dunne explained to Fox TV during the trial. "I always pick out about four jurors who become my favorites. I sort of try to anticipate what they are thinking and how they are reacting."

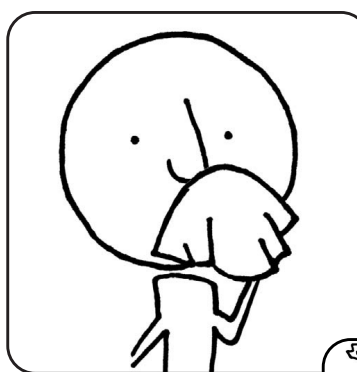


FILE - In this Sept. 23, 2008 file photo, celebrity crime writer Dominick Dunne, left, looks at his son Griffin Dunne during O.J. Simpson's trial in Las Vegas. Dunne, who told stories of shocking crimes among the rich and famous through his magazine articles and best-selling novels such as "The Two Mrs. Grenvilles," died Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, at his home in Manhattan. He was 83.

Associated Press

Stop the spread of germs that make you and others sick!

Cover your Cough



Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or

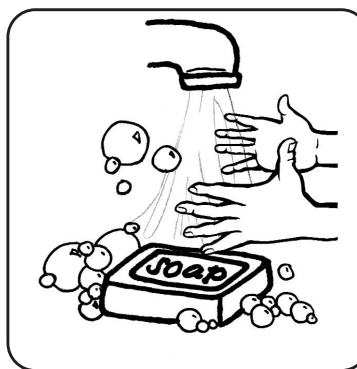
cough or sneeze into your upper sleeve, not your hands.

Put your used tissue in the waste basket.



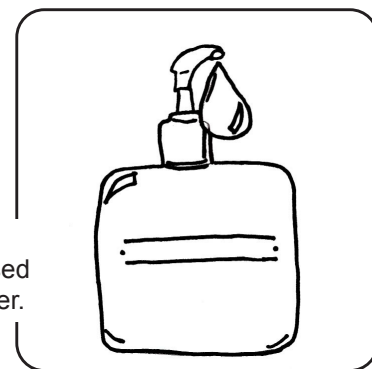
Clean your Hands

after coughing or sneezing.



Wash hands with soap and warm water

or clean with alcohol-based hand cleaner.





Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, part of The Elders, a group of eminent global leaders founded by Nelson Mandela, stands inside the Israeli Kalandia checkpoint, between the West Bank city of Ramallah and Jerusalem, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. Carter who beat out Sen. Edward M. Kennedy for the 1980 Democratic presidential nomination, called him “an unwavering advocate for the millions of less fortunate in our country”. Carter added “The courage and dignity he exhibited in his fight with cancer was surpassed only by his lifelong commitment and service to his country”. Associated Press

World leaders

Continued from front page

In Britain, where Kennedy received a knighthood earlier this year, he was praised for his indefatigable work on causes such as health care and judicial reform. Prime Minister Gordon Brown said that, “even facing illness and death, he never stopped fighting.”

Achmat Dangor, CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation in South Africa, said Kennedy had been “a champion of democracy and civil rights.”

“He made his voice heard in the struggle against apartheid at a time when the freedom struggle was not widely supported in the West,” the foundation said. “We remain grateful for his role.” South African President Jacob Zuma sent his “sincerest condolences.”

In Australia, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said Kennedy “made an extraordinary contribution to American politics.” German Chancellor Angela Merkel voiced “deep

sorrow” at his death. In Italy, President Giorgio Napolitano said Kennedy “deserves the homage of all the free world.” It was in the country that lionized his family that his work left perhaps its most lasting legacy. Nigel Baker, director of the American Institute at Oxford University, said Kennedy worked for a long time in Northern Ireland with other Irish American legislators to find common ground — despite the unwillingness of some in the Unionist and Republican communities to engage in dialogue.

“Much of the work he did was behind the scenes,” Baker said. “But he was remarkably effective in building bridges there, as he was in the United States. He did a lot of work in private conversation with key players in Northern Ireland politics and I suspect that his role in Northern Ireland is probably more important in the long run than is generally acknowledged.”

One of Kennedy’s key moves in the peace process came when the United States was considering a visa for Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

By the end of 1993, the IRA was signaling it would be prepared to end its violent campaign. Political leaders like Kennedy gambled that bringing Adams to the U.S. would help bring about a cease-fire. Clinton was persuaded — and the gamble became a breakthrough, with a cease fire in August 1994.

“What he managed to do, long before the 1990s, was bring together successful Irish Americans and get them involved in what he would regard as a more constructive approach to northern Irish politics,” said Michael Cox, a professor of international relations at the London School of Economics.

The Good Friday accord came into force in 1998. As the years dragged on, the painstakingly

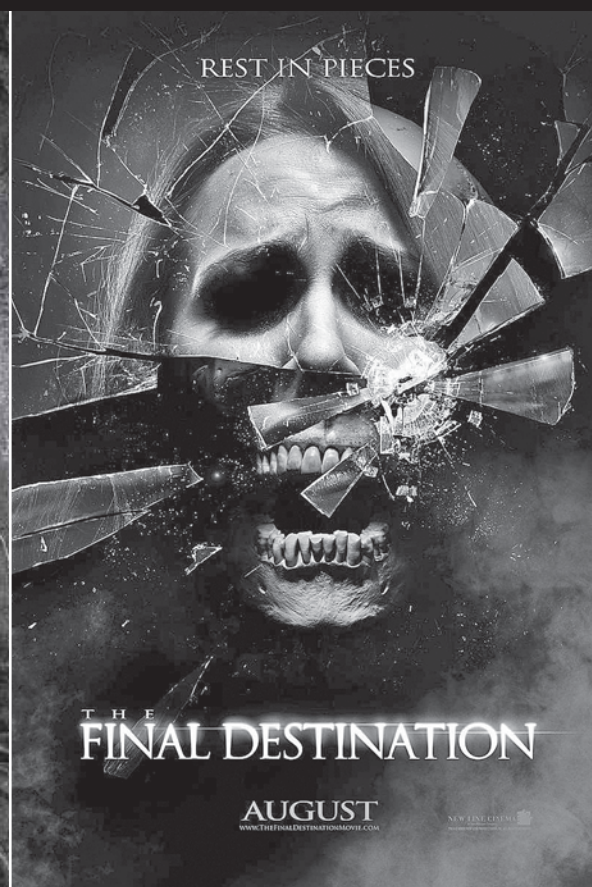
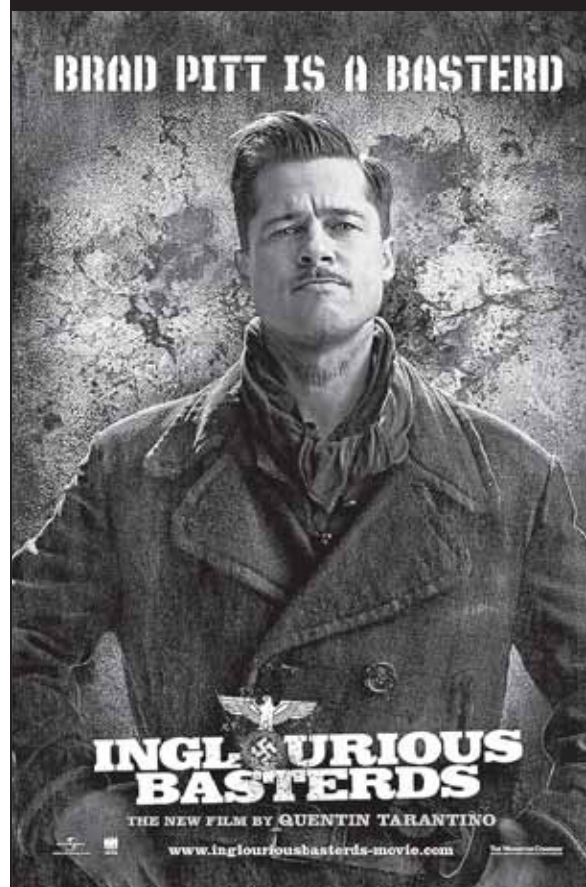
negotiated deal began to fall apart when the IRA refused to renounce crime or to permit photos of its disarmament.

The group was accused of mounting the world’s largest bank robbery, taking part in the slaying of a Catholic man, Robert McCartney in Belfast and laundering millions annually in criminal proceeds. Kennedy put his foot down, refusing to meet with Adams when he traveled to the United States in 2005 to seek support from Irish-American activists. The signal, combined with other high-profile slights, was unmistakable. Sinn Fein was deeply embarrassed because of Kennedy’s stature. Faced with losing support among Irish Americans, they began again to participate in the peace process.

“I wouldn’t underestimate the importance of the Irish American opinion in the peace process,” said Adrian Guelke, professor of comparative politics at Queen’s University Belfast.



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R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 8:00 matinee:	10:15 late show: 12:30	
PG	ALIENS IN THE ATTIC	daily: 4:45 matinee: 12:15	2:30 late show:	
PG-13	G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 7:00 matinee:	9:30 late show: 12:00	
R	THE ORPHAN	daily: 6:15 matinee: 12:30	8:45 late show: 11:30	
PG	SHORTS	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:00	6:15 late show: 10:15	
PG	ICE AGE 3	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show:	3D
PG-13	THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE	daily: 5:30 matinee: 12:45	7:45 late show: 12:30	

AT PASEO HERENCIA

R	FINAL DESTINATION 4	daily: 5:30 matinee: 1:30	7:30 late show:	3D
R	THE UGLY TRUTH	daily: 9:30 matinee:	late show: 11:45	
PG-13	THE TIME TRAVELER'S WIFE	daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:45	6:30 late show: 11:30	
PG	HARRY POTTER AND THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:00	late show:	
R	THE HANGOVER	daily: 7:15 matinee:	9:45 late show: 12:00	
PG-13	JULIE AND JULIA	daily: 4:15 matinee: 1:15	late show:	
R	FUNNY PEOPLE	daily: 8:00 matinee:	late show: 11:15	
PG-13	DISTRICT 9	daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:30	7:45 late show: 12:15	
PG-13	G.I.: JOE: THE RISE OF THE COBRA	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:45	8:30 late show: 11:00	



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NM gov. on Cuba mission, plans White House report



New Mexico's Gov. Bill Richardson imitates a photograph of late U.S. writer Ernest Hemingway (1899-1961) during a visit to his former home in San Francisco de Paula, east Havana, Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009. Richardson donated a replica of a vintage telephone to curators of the home, now a museum, on behalf of the state of New Mexico. Associated Press

JAMES ANDERSON
 Associated Press Writer
 SAN FRANCISCO DE PAULA, Cuba (AP) — New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson said Wednesday he plans to report to Barack Obama's administration his assessment of Cuba-U.S. relations following a five-day trade mission to the island even though he is not an official envoy of Washington. Richardson is meeting with a host of Cuban government

officials, including a scheduled encounter Thursday with Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez. He met Monday with Ricardo Alarcon, president of Cuba's parliament. So far, everyone has brought up the U.S. embargo and other aspects of U.S. policy, Richardson said, without elaborating. "I'm not an envoy of the (Obama) administration. I'm carrying no message. I'm here as a governor seeking

agricultural trade," he said. "Obviously I do plan to submit my impressions to the administration after I conclude," he added. "I will do that as a citizen and as a governor. They're my impressions alone."

As a congressman, Richardson secured the release of three Cuban political prisoners during talks with then-President Fidel Castro in Havana in 1996. As U.N. ambassador in 1997, he held talks on terrorism with then-Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina.

Richardson supported Obama's declaration during last year's U.S. presidential campaign that he would be open to meeting current President Raul Castro without preconditions. The governor also has opposed lifting the U.S. embargo, while advocating negotiations with Cuba to promote human rights.

The Obama administration has relaxed restrictions on Cuban Americans' travel and money transfers to family on the island. Most U.S. citizens

cannot visit — technically, the U.S. Treasury Department bars them from spending money in Cuba — in tandem with the U.S. embargo imposed in 1962 to weaken Cuba's Communist government.

The U.S. and Cuba also are resuming talks on migration and direct mail, but they have sparred over a U.S. suggestion that Havana release its political prisoners. Cuba insists that any dialogue have no preconditions.

Richardson made his remarks to The Associated Press while visiting Ernest Hemingway's former villa, Finca Vigia, in San Francisco de Paula, 15 miles (25 kilometers) east of central Havana.

Richardson marveled at Hemingway's extensive book and art collections, his mounted trophies from hunting expeditions in Africa and Idaho, his office and his fishing boat, El Pilar, during a tour of the villa. The governor donated a replica of a vintage telephone used by Hemingway to curators of the home, now a museum, on behalf of the state

of New Mexico — and said all U.S. citizens should be able to visit such cultural gems.

"There's a link between Hemingway and the United States and Cuba, and now there's a New Mexico link," he said. "I think enhancing cultural and artistic and educational ties is a prelude to diplomatic and commercial ties. It always happens that way."

"I'm for enhanced tourism travel for Americans."

Richardson said that travel should go beyond the so-called people-to-people educational and cultural contacts promoted by the Bill Clinton administration. Opponents of enhanced travel argue it would only help subsidize a government that doesn't tolerate dissent.

Richardson and state Cabinet officials are promoting exports of New Mexico beef, corn, wheat, potatoes and apples. Despite the embargo, U.S. states can sell agricultural and certain other products to Cuba, though sales on credit are prohibited.

Mexico's new drug use law worries U.S. police

JULIE WATSON

Associated Press Writer

MEXICOCITY (AP)—Mexico now has one of the world's most liberal laws for drug users after eliminating jail time for small amounts of marijuana, cocaine and even heroin, LSD and methamphetamine.

"All right!" said a grinning Ivan Rojas, a rail-thin 20-year-old addict who endured police harassment during the decade he has spent sleeping in Mexico City's gritty streets and subway stations.

But stunned police on the U.S. side of the border say the law contradicts President Felipe Calderon's drug war, and some fear it could make Mexico a destination for drug-fueled spring breaks and tourism.

Tens of thousands of American college students flock to Cancun and Acapulco each year to party at beachside discos offering wet T-shirt contests and all-you-can-drink deals.

"Now they will go because they can get drugs," said San Diego Police Chief William Lansdowne. "For a country that has experienced thousands of deaths from warring drug cartels for many years, it defies logic why they would pass a law that will clearly encourage drug use."

Enacted last week, the Mexican law is part of a growing trend across Latin America to treat drug use as a public health problem and make room in overcrowded prisons for violent traffickers rather than small-time users.

Brazil and Uruguay have already eliminated jail time for people carrying small amounts of drugs for personal use, although possession is still considered a crime in Brazil. Argentina's Supreme Court ruled out prison for pot possession on Tuesday and officials say they plan to propose a law keeping drug consumers out of the justice system.

Colombia has decriminalized marijuana and cocaine for personal use, but kept penalties for other drugs.

Officials in those countries say they are not legalizing drugs — just drawing a line between users, dealers and traffickers amid a fierce drug war. Mexico's law toughens penalties for selling drugs even as it relaxes the law against using them.

"Latin America is disappointed with the results of the current drug policies and is exploring alternatives," said Ricardo Soberon, director of the Drug Research and Human Rights



Victor Moreno, 40, a drug addict with a 20 year-old habit, shoots up on a street corner near the international border in Tijuana, Mexico, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009. Mexico now has some of the most liberal laws in the world for drug users after eliminating jail time for tiny amounts of marijuana, cocaine and even heroin, LSD and methamphetamine.(AP)

Center in Lima, Peru.

As Mexico ratcheted up its fight against cartels, drug use jumped more than 50 percent between 2002 and 2008, according to the government, and today prisons are filled with addicts, many under the age of 25.

Rojas has spent half his life snorting cocaine and sniffing paint thinner as he roamed Mexico City's streets in a daze. Most days he was roused awake by police demanding a bribe and forcing him to move along, he said.

"It's good they have this law so police don't grab you," said Rojas, whose name, I-V-A-N, is tattooed across his knuckles.

Rojas hit bottom three weeks ago when he could not score enough money for drugs by begging and found himself shaking uncontrollably. He accepted an offer for help from workers from a drug rehabilitation center who approached him on the street.

"Drugs were finishing me off," said Rojas, whose 13-year-old brother died of an overdose eight years ago. "I lost my brother. I lost my youth."

Juan Martin Perez, who runs Caracol, the nonprofit center helping Rojas, said the government has poured millions of dollars into the drug war but has done little to treat addicts. His group relies on grants from foundations.

The new law requires officials

to encourage drug users to seek treatment in lieu of jail, but the government has not allocated more money for organizations like Caracol that are supposed to help them.

Treatment is mandatory for third-time offenders, but the law does not specify penalties for noncompliance.

"This was passed quickly and quietly but it's going to have to be adjusted to match reality," Perez said.

Supporters of the change point to Portugal, which removed jail terms for drug possession for personal use in 2001 and still has one of the lowest rates of cocaine use in Europe.

Portugal's law defines personal use as the equivalent of what one person would consume over 10 days. Police confiscate the drugs and the suspect must appear before a government commission, which reviews the person's drug consumption patterns. Users may be fined, sent for treatment or put on probation.

Foreigners caught with drugs still face arrest in Portugal, a measure to prevent drug tourism.

The same is not true for Mexico, where there is no jail time for anyone caught with roughly four marijuana cigarettes, four lines of cocaine, 50 milligrams of heroin, 40 milligrams of

methamphetamine or 0.015 milligrams of LSD.

That's what concerns U.S. law enforcement at the border.

"It provides an officially sanctioned market for the consumption of the world's most dangerous drugs," San Diego County Sheriff Bill Gore said. "For the people of San Diego the risk is direct and lethal. There are those who will drive to Mexico to use drugs and return to the U.S. under their influence."

Don Thornhill, a retired Drug Enforcement Administration supervisor who investigated Mexican cartels for 25 years, said Mexico's rampant drug violence will likely deter most U.S. drug users, and the new law will allow Mexican police to focus on "the bigger fish."

The Bush administration criticized a similar bill proposed in Mexico in 2006, prompting then-President Vicente Fox to send it back to Congress. But Washington has stayed quiet this time, praising Calderon for his fight against drug cartels — a struggle that has seen some 11,000 people killed since Calderon took office in 2006.

"We work with Mexico every day to combat illegal drugs and cartel violence," State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said when asked about the law. "And we look forward to continuing that cooperation."

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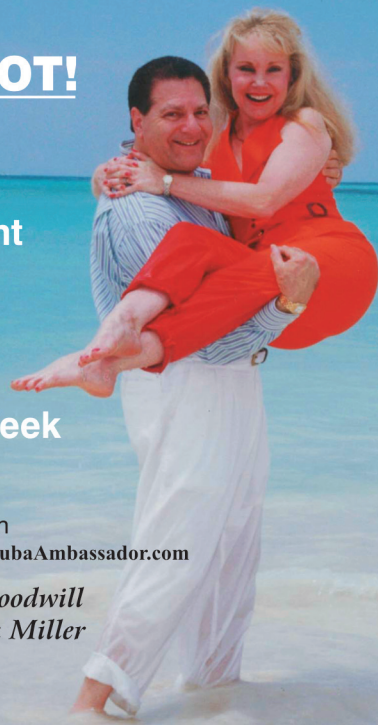


Photo by Diane Keijzer

Powerful Iraqi Shiite leader dies in Iran

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA
Associated Press Writer
BAGHDAD (AP) — Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, who channeled rising Shiite Muslim power after the fall of Saddam Hussein to become one of Iraq's most influential politicians and maintained ties with both the U.S. and Iran, died Wednesday in Tehran. He was 59.

The calm, soft-spoken al-Hakim was a kingmaker in Iraq's politics as the head of the country's biggest Shiite political party, and his death from lung cancer left a vacancy at the helm with just five months to go before crucial parliamentary elections.

For many in Iraq's Shiite majority, al-Hakim was a symbol of their community's victory and seizure of power after decades of oppression under Saddam's Sunni-led regime. His family led a Shiite rebel group against Saddam's rule from their exile in Iran, where he lived for 20 years, building close ties with Iranian leaders.

After Saddam's 2003 fall, al-Hakim hewed close to the Americans even while maintaining his alliance with Tehran, judging that the U.S. military was key to the Shiite rise.

The top two U.S. officials in Iraq, Gen. Ray Odierno and Ambassador Christopher Hill, offered condolences in a joint statement, praising al-Hakim for "contributing to the building of a new Iraq."

In Washington, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said "We were saddened to learn of the passing of His Eminence Abdul Aziz al-Hakim, who has played an important role in Iraq's national history."

Political leaders from all Iraq's sects also paid respects.

"Al-Hakim was a big brother and a strong supporter during the struggle against the former regime, and he was a

major player in the process of building the new Iraq," Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki said in a statement. "His death at this sensitive stage that we are undergoing represents a big loss to Iraq."

Among Iraq's minority Sunnis, al-Hakim was deeply distrusted, seen as a tool of Shiite Iran. His outspoken support for Shiite self-rule in southern Iraq was seen by Sunnis and even some Shiites as an Iran-inspired plan to hand Tehran control of Iraq's Shiite heartland, home to most of its oil wealth.

But the Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party expressed sorrow at the loss amid fears that those who replace him could take a harder line. "Al-Hakim's absence will create a big political vacuum at this delicate stage of Iraq's history," the party said in a statement.

His death also comes at a time of political upheaval among Iraq's Shiites. The political alliance that al-Hakim helped forge and that has dominated the government since the first post-Saddam elections in 2005 has broken apart, pitting a coalition led by al-Hakim's party against another led by al-Maliki for the Jan. 16 vote. As al-Hakim largely withdrew from the public arena due to his illness, his son and political heir Ammar has taken the lead in his party, the Supreme Iraqi Islamic Council.

Ammar's relative lack of experience has raised some questions over whether he will be able to hold the organization together at a sensitive time in Iraqi politics, but party leaders have insisted they would remain united behind the al-Hakim family.

Mehrzad Boroujerdi, a researcher of Mideast political affairs at Syracuse University, predicted that a "number of contenders" will emerge seeking to exert power over Shiite affairs and challenge Hakim's son.

One possible beneficiary is anti-U.S. cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who could gain some renewed credibility. "Things could tilt in his favor, not only with the Americans, but Iranians as well," said Boroujerdi.

Ammar announced his father's death in a statement read on his party's al-Forat television station. He said his father, "who spent decades in jihad and struggle, has joined the ranks of the martyrs." The station showed scenes from the elder al-Hakim's life while playing somber music.

Al-Hakim was diagnosed with lung cancer in May 2007 after tests at the prestigious University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. He chose to receive his chemotherapy treatment in Iran.

Al-Hakim was born in 1950 in Najaf to one of Shiite Islam's most prestigious clerical families. His father was Grand Ayatollah Muhsin al-Hakim, among the most influential Shiite scholars of his generation.

The younger al-Hakim studied theology in Najaf and married the daughter of Mohammed Hadi al-Sadr, member of another prominent Iraqi Shiite clan. After the 1970 death of his father, al-Hakim and his brothers became active in political opposition to Saddam's Baath Party.

He was jailed several times until he and most of the family fled to neighboring Iran in 1980 following a crackdown by Saddam on the Shiite opposition. In Iran, his older brother, Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, founded the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, the forerunner of the SIIC. Abdul-Aziz headed the group's military wing, the Badr Brigade, which fought alongside Iranian forces during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War.



In this Jan. 25, 2009 file photo, Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council leader Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim appears at a campaign rally for candidates in the upcoming provincial elections in Najaf, 100 miles south of Baghdad, Iraq. Influential clerics said Wednesday Aug. 26, 2009 one of Iraq's most powerful Shiite leaders has died after his health deteriorated while he was being treated for lung cancer. Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim has wielded enormous influence since the 2003 U.S. invasion as head of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, maintaining close ties to both the Americans and his Iranian backers.

Associated Press

The al-Hakim brothers returned to Iraq soon after the collapse of Saddam's government. On Aug. 29, 2003, a massive vehicle bomb exploded outside the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, killing Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim and more than 80 others. Abdul-Aziz stepped into the leadership of the Supreme Council.

The younger al-Hakim lacked his brother's charisma, religious standing or political acumen. But he proved a fast learner and able leader, quickly building the party into Iraq's largest Shiite political organization. He served on the leadership councils formed by the Americans. Then, in the 2005 parliament election, he forged a grand alliance of Shiite parties — backed by Iran's foremost Shiite cleric Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, which swept up a majority.

The coalition allied with the Kurds to form a government, though it constantly struggled to keep Sunni allies.

"He had a significant role in Iraq's national unity and was working hard to narrow the different opinions among all Iraqis," Fuad Hussein, spokesman for Kurdish Regional President Massoud Barzani said. "We hope

that all the Iraqi people and their leaders will follow his example and directions and never abandon his ideology and path."

Signs of fraying among Shiites began to show in key Jan. 31 provincial elections. The Supreme Council suffered an embarrassing defeat in the oil-rich south amid voter backlash against religious parties, while al-Maliki — head of the rival Dawa party — surged because of his popularity from security gains.

Two days before al-Hakim's death, his SIIC joined al-Sadr's followers to form a new political alliance to contest January parliamentary elections. The new Iraqi National Alliance excluded al-Maliki, making overt the new disunity among Shiites.

Al-Hakim is survived by his wife and three other children besides Ammar.

A memorial service was to be held Thursday in Tehran, then the body was to be flown to the southern Iraqi city of Basra and taken by car through the Shiite heartland and Baghdad to give followers a chance to pay homage before arriving in the holy city of Najaf for burial, according to Supreme Council officials.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Nadal not in peak condition heading to Open

RACHEL COHEN

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rafael Nadal concedes he probably isn't in peak condition heading into the U.S. Open.

The Spanish star returned to competition this month after taking off more than two months because of tendinitis in both knees. Now he's seeking the one major title he hasn't won.

"Well, I am No. 3 in the world. And the No. 3 in the world should have a chance to win, no?" Nadal told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "But I don't know if I arrive in the best condition."

Nadal and Serena Williams hit tennis balls for charity on a makeshift court on Broadway in the middle of Manhattan. They showed off the Nike outfits they'll wear during the day at the Open: a hot pink dress for Williams, a bright yellow shirt with teal headband for Nadal.

One of the reasons Nadal decided not to defend his Wimbledon title was that he found himself thinking too much about his knees.

"After an injury, sure, you think about it a little bit," he said. "But I am much better, I feel."



Tiger Woods hits a tee shot on the sixth hole during a practice round for The Barclays golf tournament on Wednesday, Aug. 26, 2009, in Jersey City, N.J.
Associated Press

Woods pulls his weight as tour playoffs begin

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

JERSEY CITY, New Jersey (AP) — No matter what players think of the golf course, Liberty National gets universal praise for its intimate view of the Manhattan skyline and the Statue of Liberty, so close to the shore she looks as if she could tend a flag on the green. Equally impressive is the view of Tiger Woods suited up for the opening of the U.S. PGA Tour playoffs.

Woods has not played The Barclays in six years, and this will be the first time he competes in all four of the playoff events for the FedEx Cup. At a time when tour commissioner Tim Finchem is asking players to do more for sponsors in a tough economy, the world's No. 1 player is pulling his weight.

"Tiger Woods playing is really good," Geoff Ogilvy said. "He's been very good for golf lately, not just because of the TV ratings, but he's playing a lot more. Our tour is always better when he's here. Golf is getting spoiled."

Golf went eight months without Woods as he recovered from knee surgery. Now it can't get rid of him.

The Barclays, which gets under way on Thursday, is part of a nine-week span in

which Woods will be playing seven times. He hasn't played that much in such a short period since the end of the 2006 season, when he missed nine weeks because of his father's death.

Asked why he was playing this year, Woods replied, "I qualified."

That he did, winning five times in 13 starts to be the top seed among 125 players who qualified for this \$65 million bonanza at the end of the year — a \$7.5 million purse at each of the four events, with \$35 million in bonus money for the FedEx Cup.

The points system has been tweaked to put more emphasis on the eight months that comprise the regular season, with quintuple the value of points during the playoff events, then a reset of the points that allows for a shootout at the Tour Championship for the \$10 million prize.

Woods could have skipped The Barclays and won the FedEx Cup, as he did in 2007. He learned on Wednesday that it was possible for him to win the next three tournaments, finish second at the Tour Championship and not capture the FedEx Cup.

Or that someone could win the big prize without having won a single tournament this year.

Continued on page 12

NHL's offer for Coyotes is \$140 million

BOB BAUM

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — The NHL is offering about \$140 million to purchase the Phoenix Coyotes in U.S. Bankruptcy Court and would avoid a sticky issue still facing the case by accepting the existing lease to play in Glendale.

The league announced on Tuesday it was submitting a bid but did not reveal the size of the offer until Wednesday.

The other bidder that would keep the team in Arizona, Ice Edge Holdings, did not include a figure in its bid, but its CEO Anthony LeBlanc said the partnership will offer up to \$150 million.

However, the Ice Edge bid is contingent on reaching a new lease agreement with Glendale, something LeBlanc said must happen by the end of next week to keep the offer viable.

Neither offer would assume the \$8 million per year coaching contract of Wayne Gretzky, nor provide any money to Coyotes owner Jerry Moyes.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly did not respond to an e-mail asking if Gretzky would be replaced or his contract simply renegotiated. LeBlanc said his company wants to keep Gretzky in any capacity, especially as coach, and would seek to negotiate a new contract.

The two bids plus the \$212.5 million offer of Canadian billionaire James Balsillie, which is contingent on immediately moving the franchise to Hamilton, Ontario, were filed on Wednesday after being submitted by a court-imposed deadline on Tuesday for review by the debtors in possession, a group headed by Moyes.

Court: Investigators wrong to seize MLB drug list



In this Feb. 27, 2008, file photo, Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig, right, and Major League Baseball Players Association Executive Director Donald Fehr, left, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington before a House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on drug use in sports. For baseball, it's the problem that won't go away. It's the list, the names of 104 players who allegedly tested positive during Major League Baseball's 2003 survey of steroid use — results that were supposed to be anonymous.

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)

— A federal appeals court sided with the players on Wednesday, ruling federal agents were wrong to seize the infamous drug list and samples of 104 Major League Baseball players who allegedly tested positive for performance-enhancing drugs in 2003. The decision is a victory for the players' union, which argued for years to have the results destroyed and is still fighting leaks from the material, which was supposed to be anonymous and later was sealed by the courts.

"This was an obvious case of deliberate overreaching by the government in an effort to seize data as to which it lacked probable cause," Chief Judge Alex Kozinski wrote in the 9-2 decision of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Barring a last-ditch appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the test results and samples will be destroyed, and prosecutors cannot use the information. Union lawyers said the government returned the evidence shortly after earlier trial court rulings.

The panel said federal agents trampled on players' protections against unreasonable searches and seizures, though the ruling came too late to spare players linked to the list, including

New York Yankees star Alex Rodriguez and Boston Red Sox slugger David Ortiz, who admitted they were on it.

Ortiz said he didn't care about the ruling, adding it won't help him almost a month after it was leaked that he was on the list.

Kozinski said the players' union had good reason to want to keep the list under wraps. "The risk to the players associated with disclosure, and with that the ability of the Players Association to obtain voluntary compliance with drug testing from its members in the future, is very high," the judge wrote. "Indeed, some players appear to have already suffered this very harm as a result of the government's seizure."

The government seized the samples and records in April 2004 from MLB's drug-testing companies as part of the BALCO investigation into Barry Bonds and others. The list of 104 players said to have tested positive, attached to a grand jury subpoena, has been part of a five-year legal fight, with the players' union trying to force the government to return what federal agents took during raids.

Kozinski said the case was a significant test of the government's search and seizure powers in the digital age, and issued guidelines for investigators to follow

in future raids that included submitting computers to independent computer experts for sorting of data.

The ruling vastly curtailed the federal government's performance-enhancing drug investigation. Federal prosecutors had maintained they wanted the names to investigate the players' drug sources.

Instead, Wednesday's ruling means investigators are barred from accessing any names except for the 10 players listed

on a 2004 search warrant. The names of those 10 have never been released, but the government said they had ties to the Bay Area Laboratory Co-Operative.

U.S. attorney spokesman Jack Gillund in San Francisco said the government was reviewing its options, which could include an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Players' association lawyer Elliot Peters said the union was happy with the ruling

but still angry that names of several players allegedly on the list have been leaked to journalists.

"Anyone who leaks information purporting to contain those 2003 test results is committing a crime," union leader Don Fehr and union general counsel Michael Weiner said in a statement. "We are very gratified by this decision, and hope that this will finally bring this long litigation to a close."

NL Roundup

Rockies cut Dodgers lead to two games in NL West

The Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — Troy Tulowitzki singled off James McDonald with one out and the bases loaded in the bottom of the 10th inning to give the Colorado Rockies a 5-4 win over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the opener of a three-game series in the National League on Tuesday. Colorado (72-54), the NL wild-card leader, moved 18 games over .500 for the first time in its history.

McDonald (3-3) walked Ian Stewart leading off the 10th. After a bunt single and an error, Omar Quintanilla struck out and Todd Helton was intentionally walked to load the bases. Tulowitzki lined the first pitch into center, giving Colorado its second straight extra-inning win. Brad Hawpe and Clint Barmes homered for the Rockies.

Cardinals 1, Astros 0

At St. Louis, Adam Wainwright allowed three hits over eight innings to become the NL's first 15-game winner and Albert Pujols' rare hit off Wandy Rodriguez drove in St. Louis' lone run.

Brendan Ryan scored from first on Pujols' one-out double down the third-base line in the first inning. The Cardinals (73-54) have gone 14-3 since Aug. 7 and are a season-best 19 games above .500.

Wainwright (15-7) matched the Yankees' CC Sabathia for the major league victory lead, and regained the team lead over Chris Carpenter (14-3). He retired 17 straight after Michael Bourn



Colorado Rockies' Troy Tulowitzki celebrates after hitting the game-winning single against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the 10th inning of a baseball game in Denver, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009. The Rockies beat the Dodgers 5-4.

Associated Press

doubled to lead off the game, striking out five and walking none. Ryan Franklin finished for his 33rd save.

Before Tuesday, Pujols was 3 for 25 with no RBIs against Rodriguez, and the .120 average was his worst against a left-hander with a minimum of 15 at-bats. Rodriguez' success against Pujols was, in turn, his best against any batter he had faced at least 20 times.

Giants 5, Diamondbacks 4

At San Francisco, Travis Ishikawa hit a tiebreaking three-run homer in the eighth inning for San Francisco after scoring the tying run in the seventh on a wild pitch.

Juan Uribe homered for the

Giants, who bounced back from a heartbreaking 14-inning loss at Colorado on Monday night. The Giants snapped a three-game losing streak and remained four games behind Colorado in the NL wild card.

Ishikawa had one extra-base hit in his previous 70 at-bats — going a stretch of 31 games without one — before his double in the seventh. He connected off Jon Rauch (2-2) for his ninth homer.

Pirates 6, Phillies 4

At Pittsburgh, Andrew McCutchen hit a game-ending two-run homer in the bottom of the ninth off Philadelphia closer Brad Lidge.

WNBA Roundup

Dream continue hot streak with win over Monarchs



Chicago Sky's Candice Dupree (4) is blocked by Los Angeles Sparks' Tina Thompson (32) and Lindsay Wisdom-Hylton (14) during the first quarter of their WNBA basketball game in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009.

Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Iziame Castro Marques scored 30 points and Angel McCoughtry added 20 to help the Atlanta Dream beat the Sacramento Monarchs 103-83 on Tuesday for their eighth victory in the past 10 games.

Sancho Lyttle added 13 points and Erika de Souza 12 for Atlanta, which improved to 15-12 and reclaimed sole possession of second place in the WNBA's Eastern

Conference. Shalee Lehning had 10 assists as the Dream shot 55.6 percent.

It was the second time in the two-year franchise history that Atlanta had reached 100 points.

Rebkkah Brunson scored 15 points for Sacramento, which had won four of its past five games. Nicole Powell and DeMaya Walker added 13 each for the Monarchs and Ticha

Penicheiro added 11 assists.

Shock 90, Sun 70

At Uncasville, Connecticut, Katie Smith scored 19 points as Detroit moved closer to a playoff spot with a win over Connecticut.

Detroit entered the contest one game out of the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference. The Shock have won three straight.

Deanna Nolan added 17 points

and four assists for Detroit, which shot 55 percent from the field (33-for-60) and 80 percent from 3-point range (8-for-10).

Sandrine Gruda led the Sun with 19 points.

Storm 78, Mystics 68

At Seattle, Janell Burse scored 14 points and Sue Bird added 13 to help Seattle shoot its way to a win over the Mystics.

Seattle went on a 31-9 run early on to turn the game into a rout. The Storm hit five 3-pointers during the spurt and took a 39-16 advantage midway through the second quarter. They led 47-24 at the half.

Monique Currie and Marissa Coleman each had 13 points to lead Washington (13-15), which remained in a three-way tie for the final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Washington cut the deficit to 14 in the fourth quarter, but could get no closer.

The Storm remained two games in front of third place Los Angeles in the Western Conference.

Sparks 75, Sky 63

At Los Angeles, Candace Parker scored 21 points, and Lisa Leslie had 21 points and 12 rebounds as Los Angeles pulled away in the fourth quarter to beat Chicago for its sixth consecutive victory.

DeLisha Milton-Jones added 12 points and Parker grabbed eight rebounds, just missing her WNBA-leading 10th double-double.

Shyra Ely scored 16 points and Candice Dupree added 13 points for Chicago, which lost its third in a row and fourth in six games.

The Sparks improved to 9-3 this month, including 6-3 at home, as they continue their push for home-court advantage in the playoffs. They have seven games remaining, including five at Staples Center.

In other WNBA action: Detroit 90, Connecticut 70; Atlanta 103, Sacramento 83; Seattle 78, Washington 68; and Los Angeles 74, Chicago 63.

Barclay

Continued from page 10

"It is different, there's no doubt," he said. "But then again, this is what we're playing for. This is our opportunity to play well. You play well at the right time, you should be all right."

Whether the system works to everyone's satisfaction this year, the playoffs is off to a solid start, mainly because Woods is playing.

"It's great that everyone is here," Steve Stricker said. "It gets this off on the right foot."

For Woods, it is a continuation of quiet support.

In March, he hosted 16 chief executives of companies that sponsor the tour for lunch and golf at Isleworth, some of them trying to decide whether to renew contracts. After the second round at Firestone this month, Woods hopped into a cart and headed for a meeting with sponsors.

"Corporate duty," he said with a smile.

He played the Buick Open, even though his endorsement contract with the automaker ended late last year. That meant playing for three straight weeks, the final tournament being a major, and Woods said on Wednesday that being in contention for three straight weeks — two victories and blowing a two-shot lead at the U.S. PGA Championship to Y.E. Yang — took its toll.

And now The Barclays.

"I think we have to support the tour, especially in this economy right now," Woods said. "That's one of the reasons why I played Flint, to show my support and my 'thank you' to Buick, and a lot of guys did the same thing. ... And certainly, Barclays has been just a great sponsor over the year, and hopefully, they will continue and we can continue building the partnership."

Woods conceded that he felt a greater responsibility as the sport's top player.

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Colombia acusa a Chávez ante OEA por “intervencionismo”

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Colombia denunció el miércoles ante la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) al presidente de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, por intervenir en sus asuntos internos y pidió al gobernante izquierdista dejar de sembrar el odio con sus recurrentes ataques verbales. Es la primera vez que Bogotá acude al organismo en medio de la actual crisis diplomática que enfrenta a Colombia y Venezuela, que llevó a Chávez a pedir el martes a su canciller ir preparando la ruptura de las relaciones con su vecino. La crisis la desató la decisión del Gobierno del presidente Alvaro Uribe de firmar un acuerdo militar con Washington para combatir el narcotráfico y el terrorismo, el cual Chávez considera una amenaza para su revolución socialista porque da acceso a soldados estadounidenses a bases colombianas. El embajador de Colombia ante la OEA, Luis Alfonso Hoyos, dijo que “el proyecto intervencionista” de Chávez viola principios fundamentales de la no intervención y la

no injerencia en los asuntos internos de los estados consagrados en la carta de Naciones Unidas y de la propia OEA.

“Nuestros pueblos necesitan a sus gobernantes trabajando para el desarrollo y la eliminación de la miseria, no sembrando odio”, dijo el diplomático colombiano en su intervención en una reunión del Consejo Permanente de la OEA en Washington.

“No es sembrando rencor y rabia como se construyen sociedades más humanas. No es despreciando a los que piensan distinto como se construye la democracia. No es silenciando a la prensa y callando a los periodistas como se defiende la libertad de expresión”, agregó Hoyos.

Colombia formalizó su queja después de que el domingo Chávez anunció su intención de difundir sus mensajes en el país vecino e incluso mencionó la necesidad de buscar fuerzas aliadas como el Polo Democrático Alternativo, fuerte crítico y opositor de Uribe.



Foto de archivo del presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe (izquierda en la imagen), junto al secretario General de la OEA, José Miguel Insulza, en la cumbre presidencial realizada en la Hacienda Pinilla en Guanacaste, Costa Rica, 29 jul 2009. REUTERS/Juan Carlos Ulate

REPLICA DE VENEZUELA
Pese a que Uribe ha dejado claro que permitir el uso de siete bases colombianas a militares de Estados Unidos no busca lanzar operaciones ofensivas contra terceros países, no logró callar las críticas de Chávez, a las que se sumó el presidente

de Bolivia, Evo Morales, quien lo calificó de “traidor”. El embajador de Venezuela ante la OEA, Roy Chaderton, respondió a la queja de Colombia y dijo que su país es señalado como victimario cuando es la víctima. “Nuestra condición durante todos estos años ha sido de víctima, de sujeto y objeto del intervencionismo de la oligarquía colombiana en Venezuela”, afirmó.

El uso de las bases militares de Colombia por parte de soldados estadounidenses será debatido el viernes durante una cumbre de presidentes sudamericanos que se realizará en Argentina. En tanto, en Bogotá, el canciller de Colombia, Jaime Bermúdez, se abstuvo de responder a la amenaza del mandatario venezolano, aunque admitió la posibilidad de tratar el tema en la cumbre de la Unasur.

Insulza propone que Zelaya regrese a Honduras con amnistía

WASHINGTON (AP) - El secretario general de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), José Miguel Insulza, señaló el miércoles que el retorno sin una amnistía política del depuesto presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, significaría “un infierno de demandas”.

Durante una sesión ordinaria del Consejo Permanente de la OEA a su regreso de Honduras, Insulza indicó que “la amnistía para lo propiamente político no debería ser una dificultad”, pues está contemplada en la constitución de Honduras y es algo que opina podría manejarse.

El canciller costarricense Bruno Stagno, que formó parte de la comisión, dijo en rueda de prensa en San José que encontraron “diferentes interpretaciones sobre la Constitución hondureña, por ejemplo sobre la amnistía, la propia Constitución la incluye en su artículo 205 como una facultad del Congreso, pero notamos una enorme resistencia al tema

de sectores afines al presidente de facto (Roberto) Micheletti”.

Explicó que de los 12 puntos que componen el Acuerdo de San José, planteado hace poco más de un mes por el presidente Oscar Arias, solo dos mantienen sin avance el diálogo: la amnistía política y la restitución de todos los poderes a la situación antes del golpe, lo que representa el retorno de Zelaya al poder.

Señaló que los grupos en el gobierno actual “insisten en que la destitución (de Zelaya) fue legítima, pero esa es una lectura de hechos no avalada por la comunidad internacional, que no se manifestó satisfecha con la reiteración de Micheletti de que apoya el Acuerdo de San José en un 85%”.

Insulza dijo que durante la reunión con Michelletti, éste reconoció que hubo un “grado de error” en sacar a Zelaya del país durante el golpe, que debió haber permanecido en Honduras. Agregó que el encuentro fue “muy cortés” y abierto.

Venezuela:

Avanza ley contra videojuegos y juguetes bélicos

CARACAS (AP) - A Mazinger Z se le cierran las puertas para salvar a Venezuela. Al menos en el ámbito de los videojuegos, debido a que la Asamblea Nacional aprobó en primera lectura una ley que prohíbe el uso, venta y alquiler de juegos y juguetes de contenido bélico. “Mazinger Z Salva a Venezuela” es el nombre de un videojuego en que el robot humanoide de las historietas dispara con el pecho sus rayos fotónicos entre los rascacielos del centro de Caracas, pero que, de aprobarse la normativa discutida por el Legislativo, quedaría vetado en el país.

El congreso, integrado en su mayoría por aliados del gobierno, aprobó por unanimidad la noche del martes, en primera discusión la prohibición de los juegos de vídeo y juguetes bélicos, pero la normativa deberá ser sometida a un segundo debate para su aprobación final, informó esa dependencia en un comunicado.



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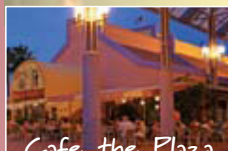
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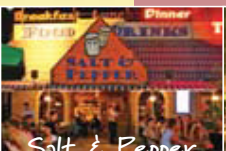
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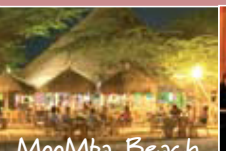
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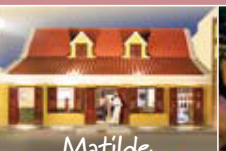
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